THURSDAY
December 29, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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CONGRESS FOUNDATION DAY

Society being divided by hate, says Kharge

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CBI gives clean chit to Oommen Chandy

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Domestic investors save Indian markets

They played a vital role amid global turbulence

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AUSSIES ON TOP

Carey hits century, SA faces uphill task

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14-year-old student drowns in pond

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a class VIII student from Morarji Desai Model Residential School in Devanayakanahalli village in Devanahalli taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, who had gone swimming in a pond, drowned on Wednesday afternoon while three other children with him were rescued by the villagers and admitted to a hospital.

The deceased is Junaid Pasha, 14, native of Vidyanagara in Bengaluru, said police officials. Four students had gone for a swim in the pond near Dakshina Pinakini river, close to the school. Villagers alleged that the children were accompanied by a teacher who took them out of the school campus to swim in the pond.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

COVID spike likely, but no wave: official

'January can be crucial, as several countries are reporting a surge'; 38 of 6,000 international fliers tested positive in the past week, none had BF.7

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India can expect a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases through January, but this is unlikely to lead to a surge in hospital admissions or even a "wave", said a top official closely connected to coronavirus management in the country.

"January can be crucial. We have seen a rise in the U.S., Pacific island countries and Japan. Given past trends, this can mean a rise in India over the next 30 days," the official said, insisting on confidentiality.

The government, the official said, is not yet inclined to recommend measures such as compulsory testing, but will reinforce its campaign to test 2% of the passengers arriving on international flights, step up genomic surveillance and bolster hospital facilities. Thirty-eight of the nearly 6,000 international flyers screened in the past week reported positive. No case of the BF.7 variant, which is believed to be responsible for the surge in China, was confirmed.

India currently has 3,468 active COVID-19 cases, with 46 added since Tuesday.

Precaution shots: With reports of a surge in other countries, more people are taking booster dose. A scene at a primary health centre in Chennai on Wednesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Four terrorists shot dead in Jammu, say J&K police

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Four heavily armed militants, heading for Kashmir from Jammu on a truck, were killed in an encounter in the Sidhra area of Jammu on Wednesday, the police said.

The truck was halted at a checkpoint set up by a joint team of the J&K Police and the Army around 7.25 a.m. amid dense fog, following inputs about "suspicious movement of a vehicle". As the search began, the driver fled and the hiding militants opened fire on the security forces.

"Seven AK-47 rifles, one M4 rifle, three pistols and other ammunition were recovered. The truck owner is yet to be identified," Additional Director-General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Eight killed in stampede at TDP president's meeting

Former Andhra Chief Minister and TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu speaking in Nellore on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Tragedy struck Telugu Desam Party president N. Chandrababu Naidu's public meeting at Kandukur in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday when eight people died after slipping and falling into a drain in a stampede at the overcrowded venue.

Four were injured, and the condition of two of them is critical.

The venue was packed with people gathered to hear Mr. Naidu speak at the public meeting conducted as part of his roadshow under the party's *Idemi Kharma* programme.

Even as he was talking, there was a commotion. Amid confused voices that a few persons had fallen into a drain, Mr. Naidu directed the police personnel and party volunteers to see what was happening.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

NEARBY

Legislature session set to wind up early

BELAGAVI
The ongoing winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi is set to wind up on Thursday, a day ahead of the original schedule. An announcement in this regard was made by Assembly Speaker. » PAGE 4

FIR registered against Pragya Thakur

BELAGAVI/BENGALURU
Kote Police in Shivamogga, on Wednesday, registered a case against BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur for her "inflammatory" speech, based on a complaint by Shivamogga District Congress Committee President H.S. Sundaresh. » PAGE 3

TAC recommends revised testing target of 15,000 from the present 5,000

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Amid concerns about a possible BF.7 wave, Karnataka is targeting around 15,000 tests daily from around 5,000 now.

After assessments and deliberations at its 189th meeting on Sunday, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended ramping up daily testing numbers in the State.

"We have recommended that the daily tests in Bengaluru should be increased to 5,000 from the existing 1,500. At least 10,000 tests should be conducted in districts other than Bengaluru (rest of Karnataka). As of now, around 3,500 tests are conducted in the districts," TAC Chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

New variants

In October, when some States reported newer sub-variants of Omicron such as BQ.1 and BA.2.3.20, apart from XBB, the TAC had advised that the daily tests in Bengaluru, which has always been the epicentre of COVID-19 in the State, should be increased to at least 10,000. However, the newer sub-variants did not result in an increased caseload in the State, and the tests continued to remain around 2,000. On Wednesday, 19,618 tests were conducted of which 39 tested positive. This number includes reconciled tests of previous two days that could be recorded due to a technical issue. State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the idea is to ensure that no symptomatic person is missed out. "The focus will as usual be on all ILI, SARI, and primary contacts of the positive cases. While there is no need to panic, we are working on being prepared to tackle a fresh surge," he said.

Currently, around 1,500 tests are being conducted daily in BBMP limits. Officials said the testing numbers are being increased gradually. PTI

Currently, around 1,500 tests are being conducted daily in BBMP limits. K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) said the testing numbers are being increased gradually. He said all ILI/SARI cases and symptomatic persons who visit Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in BBMP limits are being tested now. "We did 5,438 tests in the last 24 hours and are working on further increasing the number of tests. We have recently hired 141 swab collectors and more will be taken, if required," he said.

No need to panic

C. Nagaraja, Director of the State-run Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD), said, "Of the nearly 250 cases seen daily in our hospital, around 60 swabs are being collected. We are compulsorily testing all ILI and SARI cases. The good thing is hardly two-three are testing positive for COVID."

22-year-old forced into Devadasi system rescued in Koppal; three held

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Despite prohibition and several reforms, a case of a 22-year-old woman being pushed into the Devadasi system came to light in a remote village of Koppal district on Wednesday. The girl has been rescued now, and three of her family members arrested.

The incident was reported from Huligi village, and came to the attention of the police after a village resident reached out to them. According to the police, the woman, who was ill for a long time, had been ceremoniously "dedicated" or "married off to a deity" at Sri Huligemma temple in the village in May. However, it came to light only after a villager lodged a complaint at the Munirabad police station.

The police team and officials from the Department of Women and Child Development rescued the woman and she was sent to Santwana Kendra after getting treatment at the One Stop Centre.

The police arrested the girl's father Yemmanoorappa, mother Huligemma, and sister Mukavva. Her brother-in-law Hanumappa is absconding.

Deputy Director for Woman and Child Development Padmavati said awareness campaigns would be organised again in the district for abolition of the Devadasi practice. Despite the government banning the practice under the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982, which was enforced in 1984, the Devadasi system still exists in some remote parts of the State. According to a survey, there are 3,600 Devadasis in the district, and 2,700 of them, aged above 45, are receiving monthly pension.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Grievances addressed during the second 'Sushasan Saptah'

53.8 In lakh, the number of public grievances redressed during the recently concluded good governance week, the Union government informed. The government celebrated the second 'Sushasan Saptah' between December 19 and 25. It witnessed a nationwide campaign for the redressal of grievances and improving service delivery. PTI

Delhi HC imposes fine on Home Ministry and Personnel Ministry

10,000 In rupees, the fine imposed by the Delhi High Court on the Union Home and Personnel Ministries for their failure to file a response to a petition filed by more than 540 CISF inspectors. The senior-most inspectors who joined in 1987 as direct sub-inspector have earned only one promotion in 28 years. PTI

Claims settled by DICGC in FY22, according to RBI data

8,516.6 In rupees crore, the worth of claims settled by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation in the financial year 2021-22, the Reserve Bank of India said. The total settlement amount includes claims settled with respect to 22 urban cooperative banks amounting to ₹3,457 crore. PTI

Houses damaged in four districts in Assam due to hailstorm

4,483 The number of houses damaged in the massive hailstorm that swept through several areas of upper Assam, officials informed. Almost 18,000 people have been affected, and the families hit by the hailstorm were supplied with tarpaulin sheets, according to a report by Assam State Disaster Management Authority. PTI

Record net outflow from equity markets as FPIs dump shares

1.2 In rupees lakh crore, the yearly net outflow from the Indian equity markets in 2022 as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) retreated, after three consecutive years of infusing huge funds. The huge outflow, which surpasses the previous record of ₹53,000 crore in 2008, came amid rate hikes by central banks globally.PTI

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A failed attempt at decriminalisation

What is the Jan Vishwas Bill tabled by the Union government in Parliament and what are its objectives? Is it the solution to the problem of overcriminalisation? What are the shortcomings of the Bill and how can it be overcome?

LETTER AND SPIRIT

G. S. Bajpai
Ankit Kaushik

Last week, the Union Government tabled the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2022, (Bill) in the Parliament with the objective of "decriminalising" 183 offences across 42 legislations and enhancing the ease of living and doing business in India. It is a welcome move and can be viewed as an attempt to reverse the trend of overcriminalisation. However, there is much that needs to be done in order to institutionalise efforts aimed at decriminalisation.

Consequences of overcriminalisation

An unprincipled growth of criminal law has long been a cause of concern for scholars of law. Such growth is evident from the fact that criminal law is frequently used as a political tool; the act of criminalisation often becomes a medium for governments to put across a strong image as opposed to punishing wrongful conduct. Governments offer little in the way of justifications to support such decisions. This phenomenon has been termed "overcriminalisation" by scholars.

The consequences are felt almost immediately. As per the National Judicial Data Grid, of the 4.3 crore pending cases, nearly 3.2 crore cases are in relation to criminal proceedings. It is trite to say that the growing number of pending criminal cases share a direct relation with the number of criminal laws. Similarly, the rise in the prison population is also proof of overcriminalisation. As per the National Crime Records Bureau's Prison Statistics of 2021, a total of 5.54 lakh prisoners were confined in prisons against a capacity of 4.25 lakh.

Scope of the Bill

The Jan Vishwas Bill either omits penal provisions or replaces them with fines in legislations such as the Air Act, Environment Protection Act, Forest Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Acts, Cinematograph Act, Patents Act, Trade Marks Act and Information Technology Act amongst several others. These are primarily offences which are regulatory in nature. By and large, an examination of the provisions of the Bill reveals that stress has been on the replacement of imprisonment clauses with fines. This can hardly be termed as 'decriminalisation'. There is much that is required for the efforts aimed at decriminalisation to fructify in any meaningful way.

Need of the hour: The time is now ripe to shift focus to existing penal offences such as sedition and offences under NDPS Act & UAPA Acts.AFP

Firstly, the Bill undertakes what we may refer to as 'quasi-decriminalisation.' In this context, Andrew Ashworth's arguments in relation to use of criminal laws in regulatory frameworks are particularly poignant. In his seminal piece titled - 'Is the Criminal Law a Lost Cause?,' Mr. Ashworth creates a distinction between regulatory offences and penal offences and exemplifies the same through the functional distinction between a tax and a fine. While the purpose of a tax is primarily regulatory in nature, a fine carries with it an element of censure and stigma. This functional distinction, Mr. Ashworth proffers, is increasingly being diluted under our legislative frameworks which frequently deploy these elements of censure and stigma to regulatory domains.

Secondly, the Observer Research Foundation's report titled Jailed for Doing Business found that there are more than 26,134 imprisonment clauses in a total of 843 economic legislations, rules and regulations which seek to regulate businesses and economic activities in India. In this light, the number of offences deregulated under the Bill seems to be a mere drop in India's regulatory framework.

Thirdly, the regulatory offences to be considered for 'decriminalisation' need to be prioritised not only from the point of view of the ease of doing business, but also from the points of view of the ills that plague our criminal justice system itself.

Lastly, the Bill conforms to the understanding of the government that decriminalisation should be limited to regulatory domains. However, the time is now ripe to shift focus to existing penal offences as well. Debates are ongoing about the decriminalisation of several penal offences such as sedition, offences under NDPS Act & UAPA Acts, triple talaq and anti-conversion laws etc. There is an urgent need to assess these offences on a principled basis.

The way ahead

The intent of the Bill is merely to ensure that imprisonment is replaced with fines for as many offences as possible. The extent to which it succeeds in 'decriminalising' offences, however, is questionable. If these faults are to be rectified, it is pertinent that a more comprehensive exercise is undertaken and that the government prioritises the needs and requirements of the criminal justice system.

G.S. Bajpai is the Vice-Chancellor at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, where Ankit Kaushik is an Assistant Professor

THE GIST

The Jan Vishwas Bill, 2022, (Bill) was tabled in the Parliament with the objective of "decriminalising" 183 offences across 42 legislations and enhancing the ease of living and doing business in India.

However, the Bill either omits penal provisions or replaces them with fines in legislations such as the Air Act, Environment Protection Act, Forest Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Acts, Cinematograph Act, Patents Act among others.

An examination of the provisions of the Bill reveals that stress has been on the replacement of imprisonment clauses with fines. This can hardly be termed as 'decriminalisation'

What is the proposal to ban the sale of single cigarettes?

Ban of sale of loose cigarettes and increase in taxes of all tobacco-related products were some of the recommendations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, in its latest report about cancer management, prevention and diagnosis, recommended that the government institute a ban on the sale of single sticks of cigarettes. It also recommended that the government increase taxes on all tobacco products and utilise the acquired revenue for cancer prevention and awareness.

What are the proposals?

Broadly, the measures aim to curb consumption as well as the accessibility of tobacco products. The report cites the National Health Policy's (2017) endeavour for a relative reduction in current tobacco use by 30% by 2025 and says it is imperative that the government take effective measures to contain the sale of tobacco products. To this effect, it recommends that the government prohibit the sale of single sticks of cigarettes and suggests the abolition of all designated smoking areas in airports, hotels, and restaurants in addition to encouraging a smoke-free policy in organisations. The Committee also found that India has the lowest prices for tobacco products and thus, it must look to increase taxes on them.

These measures flow from the observation that oral cancer accounts for the highest proportion of cancer cases in the country.

Additionally, the committee also sought a ban on gutka and pan masala alongside a prohibition on their direct and indirect advertisement. This is based on the observation that, in India, more than 80% of tobacco consumption is in the form of chewing tobacco, aggressively marketed as a mouth freshener.

Why focus on single-stick cigarettes?

Single sticks are more economical to acquire than a full pack of cigarettes. This may particularly appeal to adolescents and youth who may have limited money in hand. Single sticks are also preferred by people who may want to take them up for experimentation and have not started smoking on a regular basis.

A ban on single-stick sales would compel a potential consumer to buy the entire pack which may not be particularly economical, thus curbing potential experimentation and the scope for regular intake. Moreover, a potential ban would also mean that the consumer would have to carry around the packet.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has observed that all forms of tobacco are harmful, and there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco. It also states that smoking cigarettes is the most common way of tobacco use worldwide. Moreover, the medical journal *The Lancet* noted in an editorial in June 2020, that by 2030, 7 million annual deaths from smoking are expected to be from low and middle-income countries.

Single-stick sales, owing to their easier accessibility and affordability, can also work as a disincentive to quit smoking. Nicotine in tobacco products is highly addictive and without cessation support only 4% of users who attempt to quit tobacco consumption will succeed, according to the WHO.

How effective can the ban be?

Cyril Alexander, State Convenor of the Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Tobacco Control (TNPFTC) told *The Hindu* that notwithstanding that the proposed move would reduce consumption and sales, the government must also consider instituting vendor licensing.

According to Mr. Alexander, in the absence of a vendor licensing regime, the ban on single sticks might not be very effective. "If you allow lakhs and lakhs of shops to sell tobacco and then implement the ban on the sale of single sticks of cigarettes, how would you enforce (the ban)?" he asks.

THE GIST

According to *The Lancet*, about 7 million annual deaths can be expected by 2030 from low and middle-income countries due to smoking.

Single sticks, being more economical, can appeal to youngsters who may have limited money in hand. Single sticks are also preferred by people who are yet to pick up the habit but want to try it out.

A ban on single-stick sales would compel a potential consumer to buy the entire pack which may not be particularly economical, thus curbing potential experimentation and the scope for regular intake.

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Karnataka to request NHAI for entries and exits on Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway at key towns

The 117.3 km expressway, with a main carriageway of six lanes and two service roads of two lanes on either side, between Bengaluru and Mysuru, has been built in two packages at a cost of ₹4,473.5 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka would request National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to provide entries and exits to the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway at key towns en route viz. Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Maddur and Mandya, the government assured the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

After JD(S) MLC Marithibbe Gowda raised the issue in the Legislative Council during Question Hour and complained against the absence of entries and exits to key towns on the expressway, Minister for Public Works C.C. Patil said the expressway was access-controlled and meant to connect the two cities of Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inspect the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway on January 5.

When Mr. Gowda sought to know how the State government can be a silent spectator to the denial of access to the highway to the very people from Mandya and Ramanagaram districts, who had sacrificed their lands for the project, Mr Patil said he would submit a request to the NHAI for entries and exits at suitable points on the expressway.

But, he also hastened to add that he was not sure if the request will be accepted. Mr Gowda said the people of Mandya, Maddur, Channapatna and Ramanagaram had to travel long distances to use the expressway. So, entries and exits should be provided at suitable places for their convenience.

Quality of work

Mr. Patil said the NHAI had informed the State government that a third party assessment of the expressway had vouched for the quality of work on the project.

Referring to the water logging on portions of the expressway, Mr Patil said the situation had arisen due to heavy rains during August this year when the water overflowed from the lakes and entered the highway.

He said steps were taken to clear encroachments of the stormwater drains to address the problem.

Also, he said the NHAI had made it clear that the construction of the highway was "not unscientific" as alleged in certain quarters. Referring to Mr. Gowda's allegation that the expressway was uneven at certain places, Mr Patil promised to have the road inspected.

Inspection by Gadkari

He said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inspect the expressway on January 5 and invited Mr. Gowda to join them during the inspection.

The 117.3 km-long expressway, with a main carriageway of six lanes and two service roads of two lanes each on either side, between Bengaluru and Mysuru had been constructed in two packages at a cost of ₹4,473.5 crore. The project is scheduled for completion on February 27, 2023, he said.

Mixer blast case in Hassan cracked; man from city is accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HASSAN

A mixer-grinder in a parcel returned by the person it was sent to, exploded killing one person at a DTDC courier service office in Hassan on Monday.

The Hassan police have now cracked the case and named a resident of Bengaluru, stalking a woman from Hassan he befriended on a matrimonial website, as the accused. Teams are on the hunt for him and will be arrested soon, assured Hariram Shankar, SP, Hassan.

The parcel was returned to the DTDC courier service collection point in K.R. Puram by a woman asking them to return it to the sender. However, she refused to pay the ₹350 courier return charges and it was lying there.

Shashi Kumar, in-charge of the centre, found the sender had given a fake name, phone number and address, prompting him to open the parcel. As he opened it, the mixer-grinder exploded, injuring him severely.

Mr. Shankar said that forensic experts had opined the accused had rigged the mixer-grinder with multiple electrical detonators, for maximum impact, but there was no explosive material in it.

Investigation of the intended recipient of the parcel, a 38-year-old woman from Hassan, a divorcee working at a beauty parlour, led to the case being cracked.

The woman had uploaded her profile on a matrimonial website, where the accused Anup Kumar, claiming to be a rich businessman, befriended her and began stalking her, pestering her to marry him, a proposal which she turned down.

However, Anup Kumar persisted and turned up at her house in Hassan, when she beat him, and sent him away. However, he began sending several messages, videos from various phone numbers, all of which she kept blocking. He sent videos purportedly showing several kilograms of "raw gold pebbles" and a huge cache of currency notes, saying he would give all of them to her if she married him.

The victim filed a complaint with the Baiyappanahalli police in Bengaluru in October 2022, when the police called him and reprimanded him. However, he later turned violent and threatened to kill her if she did not marry him on several phone calls.

When she blocked all the numbers, he began sending courier parcels: first, a ₹50 note with a message that the next time he would send ₹50,000, and then another parcel of decoration lights. She threw both away. Recently, she received a heavy parcel and she returned it to the courier centre asking them to send it back.

Bill on formation of Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority evokes mixed response

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The response of citizen activists and experts on the adoption of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Bill, 2022, by both Houses of Karnataka's Legislature has been mixed.

The Bill proposes the formation of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority, headed by the Chief Minister, for urban mobility region in the city of Bengaluru for regulation of the development, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and supervision of urban mobility.

The Chief Secretary, the heads of various departments (including BBMP, BMRCL, BMTC, BDA, and others), experts, representatives from civil society groups, and others are also part of the proposed authority.

In the past, many attempts have been made to bring various civic agencies and other stakeholders under one roof to provide a seamless public transport system and promote a sustainable transport system.

The Bill states that multiplicity of institutions, departments and independent legislations that they are bound to follow are currently causing overlap in responsibilities and functions, whereas the National Urban Transport Policy lays down a framework for integration of various functions of institutions and departments to enable holistic transportation planning.

Ashish Verma, convener, IISc. Sustainable Transportation Lab, said: "This was a long awaited and desired step to fix governance issues related to urban transport system. Lack of integration and coordination by the various government agencies have caused many problems. I am happy that the DULT is the secretariat for the BMLTA. It is one agency that spearheaded many sustainable initiatives in the city. However, how the proposed BMLTA is going to be structured, the experts they are going to appoint, and other issues will decide on the effectiveness of functioning of the Authority. Once it is formed, there is a need to take measures on implementation of ongoing public transport projects on a war footing and integration of various public transport modes."

The Bus Prayanikara Vedike opines that the proposed BMLTA concentrates power in the State government and bureaucracy.

Shaheen Shasa of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike said: "We are in favour of having an authority for integrated transport planning, but the current Bill shows a complete lack of a coherent vision and purpose. It concentrates power in the State government and in the bureaucracy. The CM is the chairperson and most of the members are State-level bureaucrats. There is no representation for elected representatives of either BBMP (except the Mayor) or other planning areas within the jurisdiction area."

She added that the proposed BMLTA is anti-decentralisation, which is the core of the 74th constitutional amendment for urban local governance.

"This is also contrary to the spirit of public participation in governance as there is minimal or no role for city government and no space for public participation in planning through ward level engagement in the act. The integration of transport planning with land use planning is also not well laid out or thought through."

D.T. Devare of Bangalore Environment Trust argued that BMLTA must be made operational immediately because its formation has been inordinately delayed.

"Parking policy and CMP were approved long ago but no signs of their implementation are visible. In the last two months, at least four flyover/road widening projects have been announced without publishing their DPRs and without any public consultation. These four projects must be referred to BMLTA and no work on them should be initiated till BMLTA studies them thoroughly with scientific traffic studies and consideration of all possible alternatives," he said.

Welcoming the Bill, Vishnu Reddy of Bengaluru Navanirmana Party said the infamous traffic jams, lack of last-mile connectivity, and an absence of integrated ticketing are well documented gaps but none of the existing institutions have either the inclination or the accountability to solve these issues.

Deadline for using loudspeakers on Dec. 31 extended

Anybody who wants to use a loudspeaker or a public address system will have to take permission, and follow prescribed decibel levels, police said. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Those who want to use outdoor address systems on New Year's Eve will have to take permission from the city police, and as a special case, the deadline for their use has been extended by two hours till midnight on December 31.

The deadline for the use of loudspeakers has always been 10 p.m., which is now being strictly implemented in the State following a recent High Court order while hearing a petition on azaan.

However, City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy tweeted a December 17 government order that made an addendum to the 2002 circular on the matter. It states that public address systems can be allowed to be used "during night time (between 10 p.m. and 12 midnight) on or during any cultural, religious or festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year". Mr. Reddy said as a special case, the city police would allow establishments or organisations to use public address systems till midnight on December 31.

"However, anybody who wants to deploy a loudspeaker or a public address system even well within the usual deadline of 10 p.m., have to take permission of the police and have to follow the prescribed decibel levels and other conditions imposed," he said.

ED issues notice to BBMP over irregularities in installation of water treatment plants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notice to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in connection with a case on alleged irregularities in drilling borewells and installation of water treatment plants between 2016 and 2019.

In the notice, the Central agency has sought details about the allegation on the project from the BBMP Commissioner.

N.R. Ramesh, Bengaluru South district president of the BJP, had recently alleged irregularities of ₹400 crore in the project.

Mr. Ramesh had alleged that the irregularities happened over the drilling of borewells and installation of water treatment plants in 2019 and he had given the complaint earlier to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Later the case was transferred to the ED since the alleged scam was over ₹400 crore, he said. "I have produced various documents before the ACB and the ED. We have found that only 25% work of installing the plants and drilling borewells was completed," he added.

Meanwhile, the BBMP Chief Commissioner has appointed a nodal officer regarding the case and the officer will be responsible to track all the details to share with the ED.

"We have appointed the Engineer in-chief as the nodal officer and all the details are being investigated and it will be provided to the investigation agency," BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-38/16544/2022-23 Date:28.12.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works of **(1) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line at Canal Parallel Block, 3rd Phase Mulwada Industrial Area in Kolhar Taluk (Earlier Basavanabagewadi Taluk), Vijayapura District. (2) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 30M Wide Roads, 24M Wide Roads & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Utility Ducts & Chambers, Storm Water Drain & HDPE Water supply Line at Bavanahalli Block of Bavanahalli Industrial Area, Malur Taluk, Kolar District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.01.2023 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/3771/2022-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

कॉफी बोर्ड
COFFEE BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
No. 1, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No.Adm/Engg/Shivajinagar-EOI/CBHO/2022-23/204 dated : 27.12.2022

Expression of Interest at Lumpsum rate tenders are invited in two cover bid systems by Coffee Board for the work of **"Providing Detailed Concept Note for Establishment of a Coffee Business Centre at No.11, Hospital Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru.** For further details, visit **www.indiacoffee.org** [tender] or **https://epublish/app** last date for submission of sealed tenders is **20.01.2023 by 3:00 PM.** The date of opening of Technical bids is **20.01.2023 at 4.00 PM.**

Director of Finance

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to general public that **Mr. S. KRISHNA MURTHY,** Aged about 66 years, S/o. Late Subbanna at No.141, 2nd Cross, Padarayanapura Main Road, Telecom Layout, Bangalore 560 023, has lost the original documents pertaining to House bearing No.141, PID No.32-49-141. Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, along with Ground, First and Second floor building, situated at **'Telecom Employees Co-operative Housing Society Layout'**, Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore North Taluk, BBMP old Ward No.32, now New Ward No.124, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore, while renovation the house, the sale deed dated 29.08.1998, registered as document No.1630/1998-99 has been lost.

Mr. S. Krishna Murthy has sworn to an affidavit dated 28.12.2022 before the notary and also has filed a complaint before the Karnataka State Police, Bangalore, on 21.12.2022 that effect.

If any person or individual come across the above said documents, please handover the same to **Mr. S. Krishna Murthy.**

M.V.J. Law Chamber,
Jayalakshmi M.V. Advocates
52, 4th Cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086
Mobile No. : 9538305787
email : mvjslawchambers@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MR. GEORGE PHILIP** S/o. Mr. Chennikerathu Koshy Philip and his wife **MRS. MINIGRACE PAPARIL SILIBADAS** of Horamavu Agara, Bangalore -560043 are intending to purchase **ITEM No.1** of the schedule property and **MR. LENINSLY P S** S/o. Mr. Silibadas and his Wife **MRS. JITHU ASHOK KUMAR** are intending to purchase **ITEM No.2** of the schedule property from **SRI. S.N. MURALI** S/o. Late. P.S. Narayanamurthy. any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No.1
All that piece and parcel of Immovable property Portion of Site No.49, Comprised in Property No.71, Situated at: Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk formerly Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet & North to South: 50 Feet, In all totally Measuring 2000 Sq feet, and bounded on the:- East by : Road; West by: Remaining Portion of Site No.49; North by: Site No.50; South by: Site No.48;

ITEM No.2
All that piece and parcel of Immovable property Portion of Site No.50, Comprised in Property No.71, Situated at: Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk formerly Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet & North to South: 50 Feet, In all totally Measuring 2000 Sq feet, and bounded on the:- East by : Road; West by : Remaining Portion of Site No.50; North by: Site No.51; South by: Site No.49;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Putting off caste census will only benefit the privileged groups

Caste data will help us understand the contours of inequality and craft reasoned and inclusive policies. These data are crucial to understand how caste intersects with class, gender, and regionality to structure access to resources.

KALAIYARASAN. A
TRINA VITHAYATHIL

About time: A caste census will require all households to think about, acknowledge, and speak about caste identities. FILE PHOTO

Following an order by the Allahabad High Court directing that local body elections be held in Uttar Pradesh without any reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the State government was ready to approach the Supreme Court, if required, regarding the matter. The High Court had added that the State had not done enough to follow the "triple test formula" as suggested by the Supreme Court. Kalaiyarasan A et al discuss why caste census is imperative to help understand the whole picture.

The debate about whether the decennial Census should collect data on caste from individuals who fall into the administrative categories of 'General' and 'Other Backward Classes' (OBCs) has been argued by public intellectuals, politicians, and government administrators for decades. As the Census currently only collects data on 'Scheduled Castes' (SCs) and 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs), it fails to provide comprehensive data on India's graded caste hierarchy. In the run-up to the 2011 Census, the political leadership agreed to include a full caste count in the Census. It later prevented a caste-wise enumeration in the Census. The suppression of caste-wise data took place then because of two interconnected dynamics which are likely to reoccur unless they are collectively challenged.

The importance of caste data

First, caste elites generally believe that caste no longer matters in shaping opportunities and outcomes in the 21st century. This caste blindness, or castelessness, obscures caste privileges and conceals sources of multi-generational structural advantage. Many caste elites view the collection of caste data about anyone but the most disadvantaged as unnecessary and a misuse of public resources. This perspective both serves their own interests and ignores the relational nature of caste – that is, the same societal institutions, systems, and cultural norms that have led to historic and ongoing subjugation of oppressed castes have simultaneously empowered others. To understand the full scope of disadvantage, we must also examine the full scope of privilege and advantage.

The suppression also occurred as a result of the machinery of government. Organisations tasked with designing Census questions and overseeing data collection, similar to every other key institution in society, have caste-based inequalities entrenched within them. The bureaucracy blocked the inclusion of a full caste count in the Census 2011 on methodological grounds. It argued that a caste count would be "administratively difficult and cumbersome," "jeopardise the whole exercise," and "compromise the basic integrity of the Census". The official language used by the Congress-led government in 2011 was identical to the language used in the affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on September 23, 2021 by the present BJP-led government. The presentation of (supposedly) insurmountable methodological and logistical challenges is particularly effective as an excuse because it silences non-experts.

Caste elites have a numerical and cultural stranglehold over the upper bureaucracy, despite more than 70 years of Central government reservations. In 2019, out of the 82 Secretaries to the Government of India, only four were SCs or STs. Among 457 serving secretaries, joint secretaries, and additional secretaries, merely 12% were SCs and OBCs; similarly, group 1/A of the Central Civil Services (i.e., the top tier of the bureaucracy) has still not fulfilled its reservation quotas for SCs and OBCs. Following the suppression of the caste count in Census 2011, the executive bureaucracy reconfigured the Below Poverty Line survey and renamed it the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census, which had little resemblance to the original demands by caste census advocates and produced unusable caste data.

The purpose for collecting caste-wise data in the decennial Census is to understand the contours of inequality. These data are crucial to understand how caste intersects with class, gender, and regionality to structure access to resources. The collected caste data should be publicly available for use. In this regard, the caste data would continue the existing practice of the Office of the Registrar General of India to make Census data publicly available. The Census has the legal standing, public trust, operational expertise, and resources to collect, analyse, and make public caste data. Caste data must be collected as part of this constitutionally required exercise. Having the caste Census as part of another state project, or overseen by nodal agencies other than the ORGI, as happened 10 years ago, will relegate it to parts of the bureaucracy with insufficient expertise in a nationwide data collection operation.

While counting (or not counting) caste is political, the decision should not be reduced to immediate political contingencies i.e., the expansion of reservation policies, the caste-based mobilisation by political parties, etc. In the absence of detailed caste data, we fail to name and confront major structural and foundational problems of society; leave space for opportunistic politicians to exploit each caste; and miss the opportunity to craft reasoned, data-driven, and inclusive public policies.

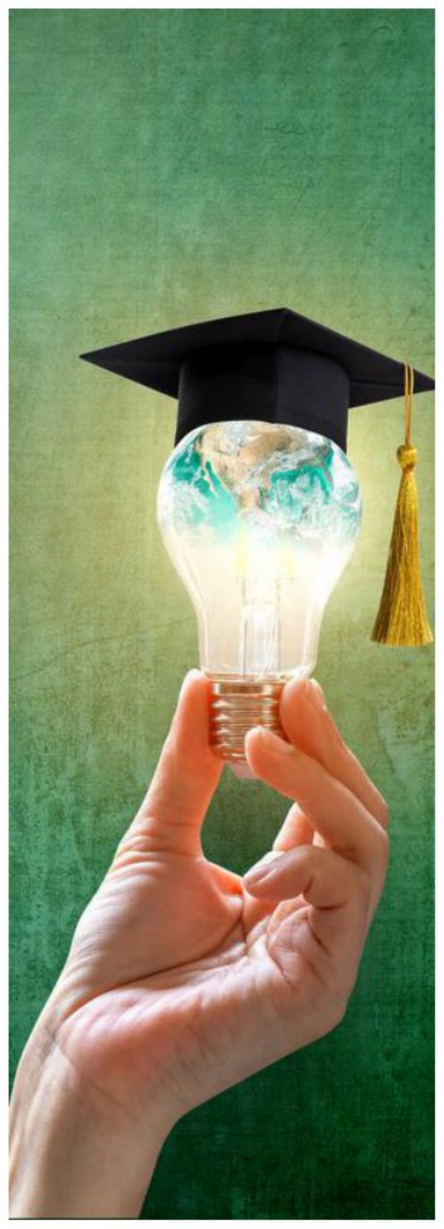
Addressing concerns

Yet, important concerns remain. Some progressive and anti-caste scholars fear that a full-caste count will further entrench caste identities. A caste census will require all households to think about, acknowledge, and speak about caste identities. Yet, historically outcast groups have already had to provide caste data in all postcolonial Censuses to implement reservations. A full caste-wise enumeration will help to make visible privileges and resources that have become over time disassociated with caste, despite historical, sociological, and economic evidence to the contrary. Updated data on the entire caste system, including its intersections with other identities, will provide a more complete picture of exclusion and inequality in India.

Another concern is that groups will misuse the caste data. But misuse of caste data already takes place. Private groups with access to money and power regularly collect caste data for their needs. Political parties map the caste and religious composition of neighborhoods, cities, and villages to mobilise votes. Collecting caste data in the decennial Census removes this private power by making caste data publicly available to all.

While methodological and logistical challenges are real, they are surmountable. Demographers in government agencies and universities have extensive experience working through these challenges. Sample surveys such as the India Human Development Survey have collected caste-wise data. Census bureaus in the U.S., Brazil, and South Africa, as well as in other countries with long histories of white supremacy, collect detailed data on race and class to understand the current scope of inequality and develop justice-oriented policies. In addition, research on the failed caste count suggests the importance of careful planning to prevent groups from being made invisible in the data, such as Dalit Muslims, Dalit Christians, inter-caste and inter-religious households (particularly those that cut across the line of 'untouchability' or communal divide), and LGBTQ+ individuals. Related to the discussion of castelessness, if a 'no caste' option is included in the Census, the caste count will likely undercount well-to-do caste elites. Given the purpose of the caste count, omissions of marginalised groups and elites require specific attention while designing the survey instrument, training enumerators, educating the public, and analysing collected caste-wise data. Hence, the entire process requires external oversight if the data are to be usable and to minimise potential harm. As the process unfolds, a public oversight group should work to ensure that major operational and methodological decisions align with the data collection's purpose: to understand the scope of caste-based inequities and address structural inequalities. Anti-caste organisations and public intellectuals, who have devoted their life's work to challenging caste hierarchy, must provide oversight and input. Their perspectives and lived experiences of fighting caste oppression are the best safeguards to ensure that the collected data will be used for liberatory purposes.

Trina Vithayathil is Chair and Associate Professor, Global Studies, Providence College, and Kalaiyarasan A. is a Fulbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University , U.S., and Assistant Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Several readers want to know how to use 'apropos'

'Apropos' means 'suitable' or 'relevant'. 'The remark was apropos' means that it was a very relevant remark; it was a remark that suited the place and the occasion. He never says anything apropos. Is there any passage apropos this? It also means 'by the way'. It is used to introduce a new topic connected with the earlier topic. You say you met Ram yesterday. Apropos, did you mention our joint project to him? 'Apropos of' means 'with regard to' or 'concerning', 'in connection with'. Apropos of the venue of the meeting, I am sorry I cannot tell you anything about it now. Apropos of the Minister's arrival, nobody seems to know anything. Apropos is a French word. 'a' means 'to' and 'propos' means 'to plan'. 'Apropos' means 'to the purpose;, 'fitly', 'opportunely'. The 'a' in 'apropos' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man', 'fan', 'can'. The first 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. 'pos' rhymes with 'toe', and 'go' and 'so'. The final 's' in 'apropos' is silent. The stress can be either on the first syllable or the last syllable. You must always remember that 'apropos' and 'apropos of' have different meanings.

Mr. V. Rathinam of Tirupattur wants to know how 'by the by' is used. 'By the by' is used when you want to say something in passing. That is, you say something and then you remember something unconnected with that is under discussion. When you want to talk about what you remember, you begin with 'by the by'. 'By the by' is used when you go away from the main point. Example: We shall buy the book when you go to Bombay. By the by, is your son still in Bombay? We must decide on what we should do. There is no point in postponing it. By the by, here is a letter for you. 'By the way' and 'by the by' mean the same. But 'by the by' is different from 'by and by'. 'By and by' means 'eventually', 'later on'. I will get in touch with by and by. He will be back by and by.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the works and writings of Leonardo da Vinci

V. V. Ramanan

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Which massive painting was commissioned by Ludovico Sforza for the Dominican monastery of Santa Maria Delle Grazie in Milan?

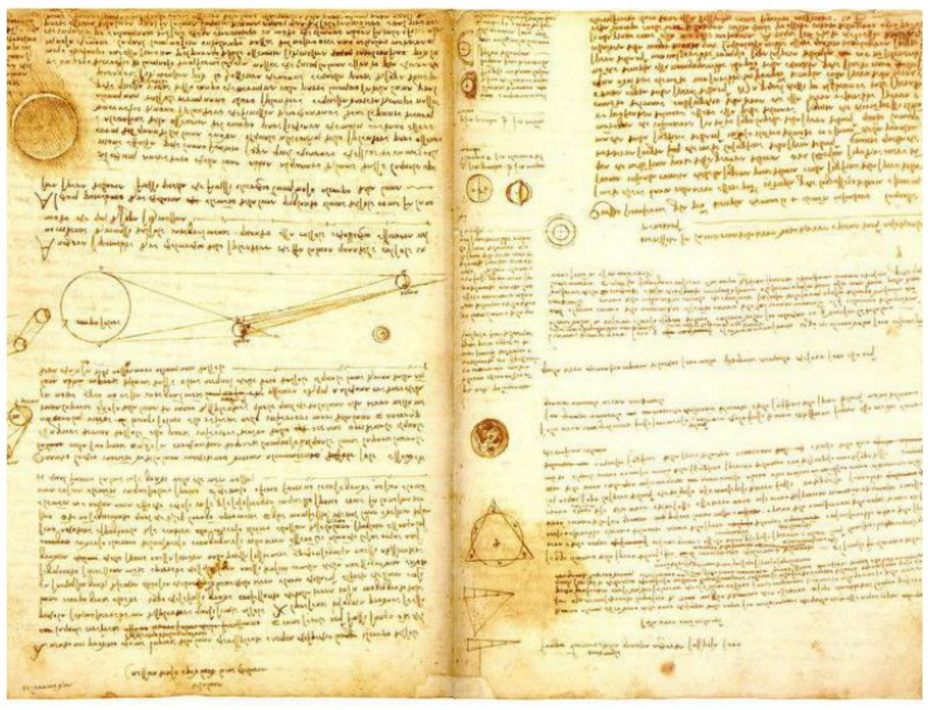
QUESTION 2
How has Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo, been immortalised by Da Vinci?

QUESTION 3
Name Leonardo's pen-and-ink drawing on the ideal human proportions as described by a Roman architect from the 1st century BCE, and named after the latter, that is housed at the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice.

QUESTION 4
Displayed at the Uffizi in Florence, scholars attribute this oil and tempera painting on a large poplar panel to be Leonardo's earliest existing major work dated to c. 1472-1476. Name the work.

QUESTION 5
Of the two versions of this painting with the same name, one is displayed at the Louvre and the other in the National Gallery in London. The former is universally accepted to be the work of the master, while the latter is generally accepted to be his work. Name the painting.

QUESTION 6
Displayed at the Czartoryski Museum in Kraków, Poland, this lovely work shows a young lady with a mustelid. Identify the animal whose name forms part of the title of the work.



This is an extract from the Codex Leicester, a collection of scientific writings by Leonardo. Which famous billionaire bought it for $30,802,500 from a Christie's auction in 1994? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Which body was founded by a Liberal Party MP in the British House of Commons. **Ans: East India Association, Dadabhai Naoroji**
2. Which party arose out of the need for the political representation of Muslims in British India. **Ans: All-India Muslim League**
3. Allan Octavian Hume had a keen interest in an area, apart from being a civil servant. Name the field, the title bestowed on him and his journal. **Ans: Ornithology, Father of Indian Ornithology, Stray Feathers**
4. At the Congress 1929 Lahore session, a party goal was declared. Name the goal and the day associated with the goal. **Ans: Purna Swaraj; Purna Swaraj Diwas**
5. The first satyagraha movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in British India followed by another in 1918. **Ans: Champaran and Kheda**
6. Who held the presidency of INC in 1947. **Ans: Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani**
Visual: Identify this leader who was closely associated with the INC. **Ans: Womesh Chandra Bannerjee; first president of INC**

Early Birds
Rahul Srivastava - Shallu Panchal - Alankar Kaushik — Amrit kaushik

Word of the day

Fiend:
a cruel, wicked and inhuman person

Synonyms:
ogre, demon, devil, monster

Usage:
He was portrayed in the media as a complete fiend

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fiendpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fi:nd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THURSDAY
December 29, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 29		
RISE	06:40	SET 18:03
RISE	11:50	SET 00:00
FRIDAY, DEC. 30		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:03
RISE	12:29	SET 00:07
SATURDAY, DEC. 31		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:04
RISE	13:08	SET 00:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	30	18
Bengaluru	24	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Trees to be axed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), implementing the construction of the Bengaluru suburban rail project, has got permission from the BBMP to fell 268 trees along Corridor 2, Baiyyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara.

According to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) of BBMP, the permission is to cut 268 trees.

House-hunting gets tougher in city, thanks to hiked rents, unusual demands of landlords

A half-yearly report (January-June, 2022) by a property rental and buying portal, showed that on an average, rents increased by 12 per cent in most of the metro cities across the country, largely fuelled by return to offices forcing relocation

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj and Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Gated housing communities like apartments in Bengaluru saw an increase in rent by a whopping 40%, says a report. FILE PHOTO

Finding a house for rent in the City is increasingly becoming a tough task, with house hunters reporting not only hiked rates post pandemic, but also having to deal with some rather unusual demands from landlords.

Varun D., a resident of Fraser Town, had to recently shift house as the landlord of the flat in which he had been living for over four years jacked up the rent by over 30% this year, arguing he hadn't hiked it in the last two years during the pandemic. Similar is the plight of many working professionals who have come back to the City after two years as their offices did away with work-from-home option.

Making up for loss

Manjunath, a real estate broker in North Bengaluru, said most landlords had hiked rents over the last six months, especially as the demand for houses went up with those who had shifted out of the City during the pandemic returning. "Most are hiking rents to make up for the loss of revenue over the last two years," he said, adding that with offices resuming, people have little choice but pay.

The half yearly report (January-June, 2022) by No Broker, a property rental and buying portal, showed that on average, rents increased by 12% in most metro cities across the country, mostly fuelled by return to offices forcing relocation. However, rents increased the highest in Bengaluru – 16.7%, the report said. Disruption in completion of housing projects during the pandemic has also created a supply stress, the report noted. Another report by No Broker in June 2022, said gated housing communities like apartments saw a hike in rent by a whopping 40%.

Multiple questions

Increased rents are not the only hurdle faced by prospective tenants. They have to contend with questions such as "Which university did you study in?" or "How much is your salary?" or "What is your family background?" In what is termed as "Peak Bengaluru behaviour" on social media, these are the questions posed by landlords/brokers.

Over the last few weeks, tenants have shared their chats with owners/brokers on social media. In one of the screenshots, the broker told the person that their job at a reputed international software company "does not fit the profile" as the owner prefers to give their home to IIT, IIM, ISB graduates or working professionals like Chartered Accountants. Another person had shared that if women tenants are to be given a house, owners prefer that "they do not party" or have a rule that "male friends are not allowed."

Even those who have stayed in city for years say that finding a house for rent is harder than finding a job of late "I have also observed that many owners have strict rules about which religion/caste the tenants belong to. There are some owners who even refuse to speak directly on call and carry out the entire conversations on messaging platforms," said Md Saqlain Jameel, a resident of Ganganagar.

Unusual demands

Brokers also agree that owners have some "unusual demands" these days.

"There are demands like job in a software company so that rent comes on time. They do not want to give houses to politicians or police officers. They also ask us about the kind of people who might visit the potential tenants' houses. There are the usual demands about not wanting pets, wanting vegetarian tenants and such things," said Balaji, a broker.

From Page One

14-year-old student drowns in pond

Shivanna, a villager, told *The Hindu* that a teacher was seen guiding students to swim in the pond on Tuesday, when cattle grazers had warned him that water was deep. "However, he was seen with the boys at the pond again on Wednesday when the accident occurred," he said.

According to police, the incident occurred on Wednesday around 3 p.m. "Investigation is on to find out how the children were taken out of the residential school campus," a police official said.

The department has announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the victim's family and further inquiries are on.

FIR registered against Pragya Thakur

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Kote Police in Shivamogga, on December 28, Wednesday, registered a case against BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur for her "inflammatory" speech, based on a complaint by Shivamogga District Congress Committee President H.S. Sundaresh.

The complainant alleged that the MP promoted enmity among communities through her speech.

The police have now booked the member of Parliament from Bhopal under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of Indian Penal Code among other sections.

During her visit to Shivamogga on December 25, the BJP MP had appealed to Hindus to "keep knives sharpened" to protect themselves and also protect girls from "love jihad". Mithun Kumar, SP, Shivamogga, had said the police would register a case only if an aggrieved party lodged a complaint, and not take up a suo motu case, prompting the local Congress leader to lodge a complaint.

The MP representing Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh said Hindus should teach Hindu culture to their children. "Stop sending your children to missionaries. If you do so, you will be opening old-age homes for yourselves. Your children will become selfish and will not take care of you," she said.

TNPL

Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department
Inauguration of
TNPL Hardwood Pulp Mill, Unit-II
Expansion at a capital outlay of Rs. 1385 Crore
&
First SIPCOT Industrial Park
in Tiruchirapalli District

Inauguration
TNPL Hardwood Pulp Mill, Unit-II Expansion at a capital outlay of Rs. 1385 Crore

Inauguration
(I) SIPCOT Industrial Park, Manapparai
(ii) Infrastructure facilities including Administrative Office Building at a cost of Rs. 47.44 Crore

Issue of Land Allotment Orders
Land Allotment Orders to 4 Companies in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Manapparai

To be inaugurated by
Thiru. M.K.Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

In the presence of
Thiru. K.N.Nehru
Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration
Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu
Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce
Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi
Hon'ble Minister for School Education
Hon'ble Ministers,
Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly,
Representatives of Local Bodies and distinguished guests will participate.

29th December 2022, Thursday 12:30 PM
TNPL, UNIT-II, Mondipatti Village, Tiruchirapalli District

E. Sundaravalli, I.A.S., Managing Director, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT)
Dr. M. Sai Kumar, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary / Chairman and Managing Director, TNPL
S. Krishnan, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–38/ಜೆಇ/2022–23/2805 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 26.12.2022

ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–38 ಜೆಇ/2022–23/ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2022.

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–38/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ 20.12.2022ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.1ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಪಿ.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2022 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜ/758/
ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

Government Of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner Office, Koppal
District Urban Development Cell District: Koppal

State: Karnataka Office Ph : 08539-221895 Fax No : 08539-221235 **e-mail : itstaff_dudc_koppal@yahoo.com**

Ref. No: 83179/(KOP-DC-11/57/2022-PD(DUDC)_KOPDC-KOPPAL DC) Date: 26-12-2022

::SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION::
:: E-Procurement ::

The Executive Engineer, Koppal District, Koppal invites tenders from Class–I Contractors who are eligible for, Chief Ministers Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Scheme in CMC Koppal Urban Local Bodies limit in Koppal District of Karnataka State as per Price Schedule listed in E-Procurement Portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Brief Description: 1.CMC Koppal Indent No: DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT133055(Call-3). **Approximate value of work (Rs. In Lakhs):** 1837.70. **EMD (in Lakhs):** 18.38. **Period of Completion (Months):** 18

Available of Tender Forms (Through Online) **28-12-2022 10:00AM Onwards.** Date of Pre-Bid Meeting **31-12-2022 Morning 11:30am.** Last Date for Quaries **31-12-2022 Evening 5:30pm.** Last Date for Submission of Tender **12-01-2023 Evening 5:30pm.** Date of opening Tenders (Technical Bid) **16-01-2023 Morning 10:00 am.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, DUDC, Koppal District

DIPR/Koppal/525/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that our Client is desirous to purchase the immovable property, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as "Schedule Property", from its Owners, **Dr. K M K Varma** S/o Maj R V M Varmaraja & Smt. Ambika Varma W/o Dr. K M K Varma, both residing at No.7/2, Richmond Road Bangalore-560025.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or objecting to such sale should lodge their objections and/or claims in writing along with valid, legal documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which period our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of Property, now bearing number 12/2, PID -76-17-12/2, measuring 175.53 Sq Meters (1889.4 sq feet) of land with Building approximately measuring 1000 sq feet, situated at Hayes Road, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by:** Hayes Road **West by:** Property bearing No.8 of Mr. Kerala Varma **North by:** Property bearing No.8 of Mr. Kerala Varma **South by:** Property bearing No.8 of Mr. Kerala Varma.

Bharathi B.V., Advocate
10/A, Chandrakiran Building,
2nd Floor, Kasturba Road,
Bangalore – 560001
Email-legal@msugroup.in
Mobile : 8722022800 / 9480489539
Place: Bangalore
Date: 29-12-2022

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Phone No.:9448994705 Website: www.cescmysore.org Email:gmpurc@cescmysore.org

No.CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/2022-23/19184 Date: 26-12-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Services as mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Service Tender Name	Enquiry No./Date
1	Providing motor vehicle services with drivers on monthly rental basis in CESC to O&M Circle Mysuru for a period of One year.	C2-5448/ 26-12-2022
2	Providing motor vehicle services with drivers on monthly rental basis in CESC to O&M Circle Mandya for a period of One year.	C2-5449/ 26-12-2022
3	Providing motor vehicle services with drivers on monthly rental basis in CESC to O&M Circle Hassan for a period of One year.	C2-5450/ 26-12-2022

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **29-12-2022.** For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000 / 22631200 / 68948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/820/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 936/EE/TLSS/HVR/TA/F-14/Enq/2022-23/6109-14 Date:27.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Transmission Lines and Sub-Stations Division, Haveri:
1) Supply of Male Contacts & Female contacts for 11KV GOS's at 110KV Rattihalli & 110KV Tumminakatti S/s in TL&SS Division, KPTCL Haveri.
2) Supply of 11KV Oil filled CTs of KPTCL approved vendor make for 11KV Banks at 220KV Ranebennur Nodal in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Haveri.
3) Supply of Hardware Materials required for Station Maintenance works at 110KV Basavanakatti S/s in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Haveri.
4) Supply of 9KV, 10KA, Lightening Arrestors required for replacement of failed Lightening Arrestors of 11KV feeders at 220KV R/s Ranebennur in TL&SS Divn, KPTCL, Haveri.
5) Repair, Reconditioning & alignment of 220KV & 110KV Isolators to make them operate in both electrical & manual mode existing at 220KV R/s Ranebennur in TL&SS Division KPTCL, Haveri.
6) Supplying & replacing Explosion vent provided to 10MVA, 110/11KV NGEF make Transformer-1 & 2 by PRV at 220KV R/s Ranebennur in TL&SS Division, Haveri.
7) Supply of 110KV Lightening Arrestors & Surge Counter required for replacement of failed 96KV, 10KA Discharge Class-2 Lightening Arrestors at sub-stations in Nodal Ranebennur in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Haveri.

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **29-12-2022 at 10:00 a.m. onwards.** Due date: **12-01-2023 upto 04:00 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
TL & SS Division, KPTCL, Haveri.
e-mail : eekptcl@yahoo.co.in

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:908/BGK/Tr(W&M)/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE(E)-1/F-53/5810-18 Date: 28.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tenders through e-procurement portal for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/BGK/PT/BABALESHWAR/2022-23/08/CALL-6 Tender for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of faulty Power Transformer of rating 20 MVA, 110/33-11kV, SPEC make, SI.No. ST-42305 year of manufacture 2011 lying at 110/33/11kV Substation **Babaleshwar** in Babaleshwar Taluk, Vijayapur district on total turnkey and Percentage basis.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/EARTHING/MHLPR/CALL-2 Tender for "Strengthening of existing earth mat by providing the new C.I pipe earth electrodes and connecting the equipments using 50X6 mm G.I flat to the existing earth mat at 220/110/ 33/11kV S/S Mahalingapur in Rabakavi-Banahatti Tq & Bagalkot Dist. coming under TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkote on TTK Basis".

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.12.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Zonal Office Complex,
Opp. Sector No.45, Navanagara, Bagalakote-587103.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that our Client is desirous to purchase the immovable property, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as "Schedule Property", from its Owners, **Mr. Balagopal Varma** S/o Late Kerala Varma, residing at No.8/1, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025 and Others.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or objecting to such sale should lodge their objections and/or claims in writing along with valid, legal documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which period our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of Property, now bearing number 8, PID -76-19-8, "Lakshmi Mandir", measuring approximately 1318.98 Sq Meters (14197.57 sq feet) of land with house, garage, and servants' quarters, all measuring approximately 557.41 sq mts (6000 Sq feet) situated at Richmond Road, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by:** Hayes Road and Property bearing No.12/2 Hayes Road **West by:** Approach Road to Richmond Road and Property of Ms. Devika Radhakrishnan **North by:**Cavendish Court Apartments (No.13/1 Hayes Road), **South by:** Property of Mr. Balagopal Varma (No.8/2 Richmond Road) and President Chambers (No.8/1 to 8/23) Richmond Road.

Bharathi B.V., Advocate
10/A, Chandrakiran Building,
2nd Floor, Kasturba Road,
Bangalore – 560001
Email-legal@msugroup.in
Mobile : 8722022800 / 9480489539
Place: Bangalore
Date: 29-12-2022

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2321/ 2022-23, Date: 27.12.2022	1 Rs.16,80,891/- Rs.40,025/-	12.01.2023 upto 4:00 PM	13.01.2023 after 5:00 PM
2			2 Rs.17,03,335/- Rs.42,590/-		
3			3 Rs.12,46,452/- Rs.31,165/-		
4			4 Rs.43,48,038/- Rs.86,965/-		
5			5 Rs.22,91,499/- Rs.50,000/-		
6			6 Rs.21,48,382/- Rs.50,000/-		
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (East)-1**					
7	South-East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2962/ 2022-23, Date: 26.12.2022	1 Rs.12,10,547/- Rs.30,270/-	13.01.2023 upto 5:00 PM	16.01.2023 after 11:00 AM
8			2 Rs.28,20,521/- Rs.56,410/-		
9			3 Rs.23,85,157/- Rs.50,000/-		
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-East)-1**					
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009					
10	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/PB/590/2022-23, Date: 21.12.2022 - (2nd Call)	Rs.22,78,863/- Rs.45,600/-	12.01.2023 upto 4:00 PM	14.01.2023 after 4:00 PM
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South)-2**					
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009					
11	(WWM-Project) H&AV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P-H&AV)/AE/ 282/2022-23, Date: 22.12.2022	Rs.53,24,000/- Rs.1,06,500/-	04.01.2023 upto 4:00 PM	05.01.2023 at 5:00 PM
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (WWM-Project) H&A Valley**					

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/3757/2022-23

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
P&SC No. 555 of 2021 (CCH-6)

BETWEEN: 1. KOTA PADMANABH SHENOY , Son of Late K.S.P. Shanbhogue, Aged about 50 years, Residing at: 9 Field Crest Road, New Canaan, CT 06840, USA, now at Bangalore.
2.K SANGEETHA SHENOY ALIAS SANGEETHA PANDITH, Daughter of Late K.S.P. Shanbhogue Aged about 52 years, Residing at: 1385, 24th Main, 24th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 070.
NIL ...RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Petitioners above named have made an application under Sec. 220, 234, 278 and Part IX of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Letters of Administration with respect to the estate of **Late Smt. K. Vinutha Shanbhogue, wife of late K.S.P. Shanbhogue, who died intestate in Bangalore on 08.05.2021. The 1st and 2nd Petitioners are children of the deceased. Be it known that no Caveat has been lodged and the aforesaid petition is posted on 20.01.2023 for appearance of interested persons at 11.00 A.M.** Any person/s having objection to the grant of Letters of Administration may appear on the given date and raise their objections failing which the matter will proceed in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 16th day of December 2022.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE "A" – IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :- All that piece and parcel of property bearing No. 1385, 24th Main, 24th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560070, bounded on East by Site No. 1406, West by Road, North by Site No. 1384 and South by Site No. 1386.

SCHEDULE "B" – MOVABLE PROPERTIES :- *Item 1:* Fixed Deposits and Bank Accounts

Sl.No.	PARTICULARS
1.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000015/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
2.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000015/6 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
3.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000015/7 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
4.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000016/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
5.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000017/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
6.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000018/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
7.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000019/5 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
8.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000040/1 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
9.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000027/1 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
10.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000040/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
11.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 1147257006403 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Overdraft/Current Account
12.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 1147313000041/12 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy FD Linked to OD
13.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030465 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
14.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030466 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
15.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030570 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
16.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030477 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Savings/Current Account
17.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117388501 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
18.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117388401 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
19.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117717501 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
20.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117364401 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
21.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117058201 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
22.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117521001 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
23.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117781401 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
24.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117611201 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
25.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500216476001 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
26.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500216475901 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
27.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1072500100112101 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Savings/Current Account

Item 2: Jewelry in safe deposit locker

1.	Locker No: 1147C00125, linked to OD A/c No. 1147257006403, Canara Bank, BSK 2nd Stage Branch, Bangalore – 560 070.

Item 3: Stocks/Shares of listed companies held at brokerages

1.	Stockholding Corporation Client ID: - 26041700 Nominee: - K Sangeetha Shenoy
2.	Geojit Financial Services Ltd Client ID: - 11206056 No Nominee
3.	226 Shares in Central India Polyesters Limited
4.	50 Shares in Regency Ceramics Limited
5.	40 Shares in Dunlop India
6.	100 Shares in SPIC Electronics and Systems
7.	100 Shares in Nikon Nirmaan Limited
8.	100 Shares in Vegepro Foods & Feeds Limited
9.	100 Shares in Sanghi Polyesters Limited
10.	50 Shares in Khoday Distilleries Limited
11.	50 Shares in Garware Paints Limited
12.	200 Shares in Jamna Auto Industries Limited

Advocate for Petitioner Nos. 1 & 2
CrestLaw Partners,
Advocate and Solicitors_
No. 33, Ist Cross Victoria Road,
Xavier Layout, Bangalore – 560047.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
P&SC No. 554 of 2021 (CCH-6)

BETWEEN: 1. KOTA PADMANABH SHENOY , Son of Late K.S.P. Shanbhogue, Aged about 50 years, Residing at: 9 Field Crest Road, New Canaan, CT 06840, USA, now at Bangalore.
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NIL ...RESPONDENTS

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Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this **16th day of December 2022.**

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9.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000027/1 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
10.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 47458000040/3 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
11.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 1147257006403 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Overdraft/Current Account
12.	Canara Bank – BSK 2nd Stage Account No: - 1147313000041/12 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy FD Linked to OD
13.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030465 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
14.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030466 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
15.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030570 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
16.	Bank of Baroda – Jayanagar Account No: - 07640300030477 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Savings/Current Account
17.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117388501 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
18.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117388401 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
19.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117717501 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
20.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117364401 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
21.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117058201 No Nominee Fixed Deposit
22.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117521001 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
23.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117781401 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
24.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500117611201 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
25.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500216476001 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
26.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1071500216475901 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Fixed Deposit
27.	Karnataka Bank Account No: - 1072500100112101 Nominee: K Sangeetha Shenoy Savings/Current Account

Item 2: Jewelry in safe deposit locker

1.	Locker No: 1147C00125, linked to OD A/c No. 1147257006403, Canara Bank, BSK 2nd Stage Branch, Bangalore – 560 070.

Item 3: Stocks/Shares of listed companies held at brokerages

1.	Stockholding Corporation Client ID: - 26041700 Nominee: - K Sangeetha Shenoy
2.	Geojit Financial Services Ltd Client ID: - 11206056 No Nominee
3.	226 Shares in Central India Polyesters Limited
4.	50 Shares in Regency Ceramics Limited
5.	40 Shares in Dunlop India
6.	100 Shares in SPIC Electronics and Systems
7.	100 Shares in Nikon Nirmaan Limited
8.	100 Shares in Vegepro Foods & Feeds Limited
9.	100 Shares in Sanghi Polyesters Limited
10.	50 Shares in Khoday Distilleries Limited
11.	50 Shares in Garware Paints Limited
12.	200 Shares in Jamna Auto Industries Limited

Advocate for Petitioner Nos. 1 & 2
CrestLaw Partners,
Advocate and Solicitors_
No. 33, Ist Cross Victoria Road,
Xavier Layout, Bangalore – 560047.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TA/AE/Tender/2022-23/7205 Date:26-12-2022

- ITEM RATE TENDER POSTPONEMENT NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT):-

Ref:This of Notification No. PWD/BD/TA/AE/TENDER/ 2022-23/6920 Dtd:15-12-2022

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contra ctors registered in E-procurement portal in Public Works Department under KW-1,2,3 & 4 Standard tender documents for a total of 48 works with minimum & maximum tender amounts of Rs. 8.20 Lakhs & Rs. 188.32 Lakhs respectively and minimum & maximum EMD amount of Rs. 20000/- & Rs. 282500/- respectively. Works of Part-2:from Sl.No.02 to 10, Enquiry of Tenders on 09.01.2023 at 11.00 AM, Receipt of Tenders on 10.01.2023 at 4.30 PM & Opening of Financial Bid on 12.01.2023 at 11.00 AM and Works of Part-4: from Sl. No. 51 to 56 Enquiry of Tenders on 04.01.2023 at 11.00 AM, Receipt of Tenders on 05.01.2023 at 4.30 PM, Opening of Technical Bid on 06.01.2023 at 4.45 PM & Opening of Financial Bid on 07.01.2023 at 11.00 AM, and from Sl.No.20 to 50 & Sl. No. 57 to 58 Enquiry of Tenders on 09.01.2023 at 11.00 AM, Receipt of Tenders on 10.01.2023 at 4.30 PM, Opening of Technical Bid on 11.01.2023 at 4.45 PM & Opening of Financial Bid on 12.01.2023 at 11.00 AM, for more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in after 26-12-2022.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Division Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1451/MCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka

DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Commissioner Urban Land Transport
BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630, E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com

NO : DULT-ACCT/1/2020 Date : 28.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Bids are invited from competent and eligible service providers (SPs) for providing manpower for various categories of staff to the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), for a period of 1 year. The bid document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** and also from DULT website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admn)
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department

DIPR/CP/3759/SHIRDI SAI/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, RAMANAGARA
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION, RAMANAGARA

Re-Tender Notification No. 55/EE/RDW&SD/RMG/TENDER/ AE-2/JJM/1971-1980/2022-23/Call-2 Date : 27.12.2022

The RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State under Single & Two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 - STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-2 & KW-3 for water supply works **under JJM** through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

* **Max Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 86.27 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 1,72,500.00/-**
* **Min Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 21.97 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 50,000.00/-**
* **Period of Contract: 06 Months**
* **Last Date for submission of Tender: 14.01.2023 Upto 5.00 PM**
* **Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: 16.01.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards**
* **Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: 18.01.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards.**

For further particulars / details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Ramanagara.

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SITUATION VACANT

TECHNICAL

URGENT REQUIREMENT – Business Development Associate – Electronic components (PCB); Purchase or Sales; Work from home; Diploma/ Graduate (Electronics). Contact:+91–7010722774, booshanan.s@fornet.com.hk

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHINTA Kanwar alias Sinta Kuwar D/o chain Singh R/o 8/1 4TH Cross Magadi Road Bangalore North Karnataka–560023 have changed my name to Nirma Kanwar

I, Gokul G N S/o Ganesh, residing at # 1-103(2), Aradhya, Nandanavan Layout, Nidhinagar, Punaroor, Mangalore, Karnataka - 574150,changed my name to Gokul Shervegar for all purposes in future.

I, LALUDAN, S/o Bhawardan Ashiya, R/at Flat No.122, 1st Floor, DS Max Solitaire, Banjara Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name from Laludan to Laludan Ashiya vide affidavit dated 28-12-2022 before Notary Udaykumar.K, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lost of Documents

I, Krishnagiri Vasuki residing at No.7 LIG 3rd Stage, B Sector, Yelahanka new town, Bangalore- 560064. Unexpectedly lost Khata and Tax certificate of Mysore Taluk Ilawala Hobli, Huliyavu village Survey No. 3/1, 9/1, 10/2, 20, 50, 57 and 58/1 , Shree Sapthagiri Layout 2, site No 259 D at Yelahanka New town Bus Stop. If anybody found the above documents, please contact: **+919980946451** or notify to above address. Lost document filed in Police FIR (Lost Report No. 0408219/2022).

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRUTI Kirti Singh D/o Gyan Singh Chauhan and W/o Shakti Singh Bhadoriya, R/o 74/96 D Sadanand Nagar, Harjindar Nagar, Ahirwan, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh-208007 today in Bengaluru have changed my name from Shruti Kirti Singh to Shrutikirti Singh vide affidavit dt: 27-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, REKHA Doddaalahalli Puttaswamy Gowda, W/o. Muralidhar.M, R/at No.573, 1st Floor, 23rd Cross, 13th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070, have changed my name from Rekha Doddaalahalli Puttaswamy Gowda to Rekha Muralidhar vide affidavit dated 23-12-2022 before Notary Udaykumar.K, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT MUNSIF OF ERODE, TAMIL NADU

E.P.NO 45 OF 2020
R.C.O.P.NO : 22 OF 2018

Renuka, aged about 64 years, wife of late N.Sivakumar, residing at 285, E.V.N.Road, Erode-1 and two others (Petitioners 2 and 3 represented by their Power Agent Mother Renuka Shivakumar the 1st petitioner herein)
-Petitioners/Petitioners/Landlords
1. Srinivas Kumar, aged about 58 years, residing at 1127/A, 7th Sector, 3rd floor, HSR Layout, Near BDA Complex, Bangalore-560 102, Karnataka State.
2. Sunil, aged about 58 years, residing at 1127/A, 7th Sector, 3rd floor, HSR Layout, Near BDA Complex, Bangalore-560 102, Karnataka State.
- Respondents 4 & 5/ Respondents 4 & 5

Notice to respondents 4 and 5

The above Execution petition filed by the petitioners in E.P.No.45 of 2020 for delivery of possession is posted on 10.01.2023 before the Principal District Munsif Court, Erode, Tamil Nadu for your appearance. You are hereby informed that to appear before the Hon'ble court on 10.01.2023 at 10 A.M. either in person or through counsel and submit your objections failing which the above execution petition is disposed off in your absence.

A.C.MUTHUSAMY, B.A.,B.L.,
Advocate, Erode.
Cell No: 98428 40840

INBRIEF

Home Minister favours curbs on cultivating areca

Cautioning that areca growers would suffer a lot in the coming days, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, on Wednesday, favoured restrictions on cultivation of areca in the State. Speaking during a debate on problems of the farm sector in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Araga Jnanendra said the areca had no future. The areca growers of Malnad region, the traditional growers of the crop, had been suffering because of the diseases affecting it. "Now, many people in dry areas are also cultivating the crop. I wish some restrictions are put on expanding the area," he said.

Deshpande gets 'Best Legislator-2022' award

Eight-time MLA and veteran Congress leader Raghunath Vishwanathrao Deshpande was honoured with the "Best Legislator Award" for 2022 by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. He was chosen by a committee led by Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri that comprised Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah as members. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had been chosen for this award last year. Praising the veteran leader, the Speaker said Mr. Deshpande was one of those legislators who did not violate the House rules in his long career. The 75-year-old Mr. Deshpande has been representing Haliyal constituency of Uttara Kannada district in the Assembly since 1983 continuously barring once when he lost the polls, he pointed out.

Transport authority Bill, two others passed in Council

The Legislative Council on Wednesday passed three Bills including the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Bill, 2022. The other two Bills, which were passed in the Legislative Council, include the Karnataka Land Revenue (Third Amendment) Bill 2022 and The Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2022. The Council also passed the Karnataka Land Revenue (Third Amendment) Bill 2022, which seeks to lease government land to a family unauthorisedly cultivating plantation crops on such land up to an extent of 25 acres.

Legislature session set to wind up a day early, as parties are busy with poll preparations

Though border row with Maharashtra has been in focus in both the States, issues related to North Karnataka have not found the pride of place in the ongoing session. Speaker expresses displeasure over several Ministers not being present

IN THE LEGISLATURE

B.S. Satish Kumar
BELAGAVI

The legislature session in Belagavi was marked by lack of interest among legislators cutting across party affiliations right from the very beginning. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The ongoing winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi is set to wind up on Thursday, a day ahead of the original schedule. The session that began in the northern city on December 19 was to end on December 30 as per earlier schedule.

An announcement in this regard was made by Assembly Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri on Wednesday. Most members had other programmes to attend on Friday, and hence, he had decided to end the session a day earlier on Thursday evening, he said.

All preoccupied

While the ruling BJP leaders are busy with preparations for the arrival of their key strategist Amit Shah to the State on Friday, the principal Opposition Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D. K. Shivakumar are trying to give a message of unity by participating in a bus yatra together, which will be flagged off from Vijayapura on the same day. The other Opposition Janata Dal (Secular) has had a thin presence in the session, with its key leader H.D. Kumaraswamy away on the party's poll tour of Pancharatna Yatra along with other party leaders. In fact, this session was marked by lack of interest among legislators cutting across party affiliations right from the very beginning as the preparations for the forthcoming Assembly elections appear to be weighing heavily on their minds. Mr. Kageri had to express displeasure over several Ministers not being present in the House to reply to issues. Even the presence of members across political affiliations was thin during several debates.

Though MLAs had expressed concern over their poll preparations getting affected of their camp in Belagavi, when hardly 100 days are left for the Assembly elections, their leaders had desisted from seeking curtailment of session as they were wary of its political impact precisely because of proximity to elections.

Amid border row

The practice of holding winter session of the legislature in Belagavi was started in 2006 by the then JD (S)-BJP coalition government led by Mr. Kumaraswamy to focus on North Karnataka issues. But the ongoing session could barely take up any elaborate discussion on issues related to North Karnataka, though there were huge expectations from people of this region as it is the last one being held by the present political regime in the city. Ironically, there was little focus on North Karnataka by any party, though the border row with Maharashtra has been raked up and there has been a heated debate on it in both the States.

The ongoing session is the 11th in series that saw the total number of sittings in Belagavi crossing the 100th day mark.

Govt. to relax 'no BPL card for owners of four-wheeler' regulation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government on Wednesday agreed in principle to relax the norm that declares those owning four-wheelers as ineligible for getting Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards.

'Norm affecting poor'

The government's decision came in the wake of concerns expressed by members cutting across party affiliations that such a norm has been hitting several poor mobile vendors, who have been using vehicles particularly after the COVID-19 to sell their produce.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Assembly, BJP member M.P. Kumaraswamy said though the idea of the government was to prevent affluent families from getting BPL cards, it had cut many poor mobile vendors from the ambit of this benefit.

"You can buy used cars for less than ₹40,000. Do not consider them as rich people and snatch away their right of getting BPL cards," he said. Senior Minister Govind Karjol promised the norm would be relaxed.

'Farmers across the board badly hit by floods and disease'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Stating that growers of many crops, including sugarcane, areca, coconut and toor, were facing difficulty owing to floods and diseases, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah appealed to the State government to come to the rescue of farmers.

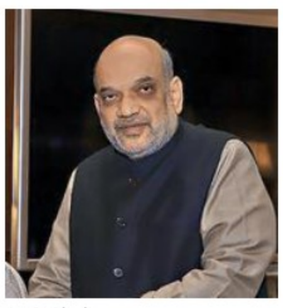
Speaking on the problems being faced by the farming sector, he said it had been hit hard owing to floods and diseases, while milk production had come down by over 15 lakh litres in the recent months due to lumpy skin disease. "More than 22,000 head of cattle died due to the disease. The decrease in production of milk has directly hit the farmers' income in rural areas," he said.

Supporting the demands of sugarcane growers, Mr. Siddaramaiah said they had been demanding that the government fix the price at ₹3,500 per tonne. Besides, they should get their share in the profit earned through the production of ethanol as well. "Sugarcane growers are spending over ₹1.2 lakh per acre. If they do not get fair price, they will face loss," he said. Further, he said the areca growers had been facing difficulties due to the leaf-spot disease and yellow-leaf disease. The Union government's decision to import areca from Bhutan also brought down the price of areca in the local market significantly. "The State should put pressure on the Centre to stop importing areca", he said.

Similarly, he said, coconut growers had been facing difficulty with the fall in price of copra. "The State government has not withdrawn the amendment to the APMC Act, even after farmers' demand. The amendment has affected the revenue generated by APMCs. Besides that farmers are also suffering as their produces are being purchased by merchants outside the markets", he said. Regarding the toor cultivated in Kalaburagi, Bidar and Yadgir districts, the Congress leader said the crop grown in 1.3 lakh ha was lost due to floods this year.

Amit Shah's two-day visit to Mandya, Bengaluru Rural to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Amit Shah

Union Home Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's key strategist Amit Shah will visit Mandya and Bengaluru Rural districts in the electorally-key Old Mysore region, the Vokkaliga heartland the BJP hopes to make inroads into, on a two-day visit starting Thursday night.

The visit will also see Mr. Shah closeted with party leaders in preparation for the upcoming Assembly polls.

Mr. Shah will attend three events in Gejjalagere, Mandya, Palace Grounds, Bengaluru, and Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural district, all related to the cooperative sector. He will address a public rally in Mandya district on Friday.

Fight for foothold

"The upcoming 2023 elections will be mainly fought in the Old Mysore region, where Congress and JD(S) are traditional rivals. BJP will put up a strong fight in the region. Mr. Shah's visit to Mandya and Devanahalli are only signs of things to come," said a senior party functionary.

Mr. Shah, the first Union Cooperation Minister, is also keen to woo those in the sector traditionally believed to act as force multipliers to a political party.

Series of meetings

Mr. Shah's two-day visit will also see him hold strategy meetings with senior leaders for the upcoming Assembly elections. On Friday and Saturday, Mr. Shah will hold breakfast meetings with senior leaders.

Cabinet expansion

Cabinet expansion and a host of other issues including reservation tangle will be discussed during the sessions, sources said.

Mr. Shah will also address a meeting of the party's booth agents and page pramukhs, in preparation of the upcoming Assembly elections, on Saturday evening, before leaving for Delhi.

Shivakumar challenges Bommai on border row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday challenged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to take an all-party delegation to Delhi to pressurise Union Home Minister Amit Shah to give a public statement on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row to settle the matter.

"Not surprised that the CM is merely doing lip service with hollow statements. If he actually means to not cede an inch of Karnataka to Maharashtra, he should immediately take an all-party delegation to Delhi and let Home Minister give a public assurance on the matter," Mr. Shivakumar said in a tweet.

"It is not surprising that Chief Ministers are making empty statements like this. If Mr. Bommai was not ready to give up even an inch of the state's space, he should have taken an action already," Mr Shivakumar said.

Interestingly, Chief Ministers from both the States belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party but are busy escalating the matter with an eye on approaching the Karnataka Assembly elections early next year, said the state Congress.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560 030

No.EE/(BTM)/Ae/e-proc/15/2022-23 Date:27.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (2nd Call)

Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for providing the services detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx.Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
	Category SC		
1.	Providing and fixing of Street Name Boards in Ward No. 185, Ejipura.	30.00	30,000/-
2.	Maintenance of Burial Ground in Ward No. 186, Koramangala.	10.00	12,500/-
3.	Supplying of Essential Materials for Ward Maintenance in ward No 192 BTM Layout.	10.00	12,500/-
4.	Improvements to drains and Footpath in 5th cross road from Bunnerughatta Service road to Nandanavana Park in ward No. 193 N S Palya.	35.00	35,000/-
	Category ST		
5.	Maintenance of Footpath and other Improvement works in Ward No. 186, Koramangala.	30.00	30,000/-
6.	Construction and Improvements to drains, culverts in Ward No. 186, Koramangala.	30.00	30,000/-
7.	Improvements to drains & culverts at K R Garden, Siddartha colony & surrounding area in ward No.187 Adugodi	30.00	30,000/-
8.	Improvements to Drains and culverts in Jakkasandra and Venkatapura in ward No.191 Jakkasandra	10.00	12,500/-
9.	Extension & Improvement works to Samudaya Bhavana at EWS Colony Near Rajarajeshwari Temple in ward No 192 BTM Layout	50.00	50,000/-
	Category Others		
10.	Maintenance of Burrial Grounds in ward No.187 Adugodi	10.00	25,000/-
11.	Depot collection of aggregates and Bitumen for patch repairs For the year 2022-23 in Ward 191 Jakkasandra	10.00	25,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement portal from website. **2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **06.01.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Opening of Bids **: 07.01.2023 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No. 5
Ron-582209 Ph & Fax : 08381-267247 Email : knnldiv5@gmail.com

No:KNNL/MRBC/DB/Tender /2022-23/588 Date : 27.12.2022

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Div No:05 Ron, the under under-signed invites tender on percentage basis from KPWD Class-I Contractors. The Tenderers are required to upload in single cover both Technical bid and Financial bid, Technical bid should contain the documents as mentioned in Detailed Notification and Financial bid of those bidders who have paid the requisite EMD & fulfill the conditions contained in para1.1 will be opened. Table showing the details of work put to tender is as under;

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORK PUT TO E-TENDERING

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate amount put to tender Rs. (In Lakhs) (Exluding GST)	EMD Rs including GST	Tender Processing fee	Stipulated period for Completion	Class of Contractors
1)	Construction of CC Road and Drain in SC Colony of Myakalajhari Village and Construction of Asphalt Road From Goudageri Thanda to Joining Road of Ganjendragada Thanda of Gajendragada Taluk Gadag District(I No-35246)	**126.46**	**2,24,000.00**	As per e - Procurement portal	6 Months (Including monsoon)	KPWD Class-I
2)	Construction of CC Road and Drain From Main Road to Rajur Thanda of Gajendragada Taluk of Gadag District (I No-35248)	**126.36**	**2,24,000.00**	As per e - Procurement portal	6 Months (Including monsoon)	KPWD Class-I
3)	Construction of CC Road and RCC Drain in ST Colony of ward number 20 (Basaveshwar Nagar) Gajendragada, of Gajendragada Taluk of Gadag District (I No-35247)	**84.30**	**1,99,000.00**	As per e - Procurement portal	6 Months (Including monsoon)	KPWD Class-I

Issue and submission of E-tender documents : (1) The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from **28.12.2022** at 11.00 am in the website http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in / eportal/index.seam link e-tender document and after payment (non-refundable) towards the transaction/tender processing fee. While applying the contractors can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal (2) The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **31.12.2022** at 3.00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No.05 Ron The queries if any are to be sent not later than on 31.12.2022 till 5.00 PM by the intending bidders through e-mail to the Executive Engineer (the e-mail id for sending queries is **knnldiv5@gmail.com**) (3) Last Date for Submission of completed e tendering documents is **06.01.2023** up to 5.00 PM. (4) First Electronic Document (Technical BID) will be opened on **09.01.2023** at 11.00 AM in the Presence of the Bidders who wish to participate. (5) Second Electronic Document (financial Bid) of the successful bidders who qualify in the technical bid wil be opened on **18.01.2023** at 11.00 AM or after approval to the technical bid from the competent authority.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http;// eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ eportal/lines.seam and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

DIPR/Gadag/MCA/531/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Inch)
KNNL, MRBCC Division, No-5, Ron

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Fighter jets to touch down on NH-16 as part of trial run

Sambasiva Rao M.
BAPATLA

Fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will fly at a height of 100 metres from the ground before landing at a designated strip along National Highway-16 in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday as part of an emergency landing trial run.

It is expected that at least two fighter jets and three other aircraft will land on the highway at Pichukalagudipadu village in Korisapadu mandal of the district as part of the trial run. Elaborate security arrangements are being made by the Bapatla district administration for the exercise, which will be the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh.

IAF Group Captain R.S. Chowdary, who inspected the emergency landing runway (ELR) on NH-16, said that the trial run would be conducted at 11 a.m.on Thursday. The IAF has set up emergency base camps on the ends of the landing strip, he said.

The ELR is a 4.1-km stretch built on the highway to enable fighter aircraft to land safely in times of an emergency. A similar facility is proposed to be developed between Singarayakonda and Kalikivayi in Prakasam district on the highway.

Readying the strip: Bapatla SP Vakul Jindal interacting with the Air Force authorities on Wednesday. VIJAYA KUMAR

"The facility will be of much use in times of war and other national emergencies," Vakul Jindal, Bapatla Superintendent of Police, told *The Hindu*. "The entire 4.1-km stretch has been developed like a runway. The strip can be readied within half an hour for emergency plane landings," he said. Except in cases of an emergency, the strip will continue to serve as a national highway, he added.

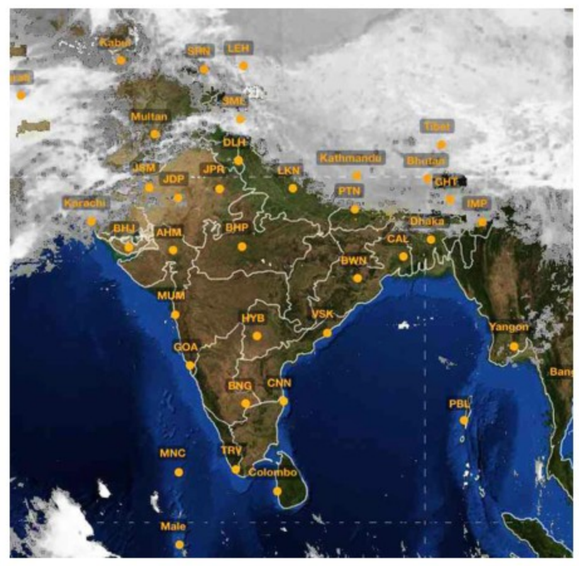
Security tightened

Mr. Jindal said that two fighter jets and three planes would land within a span of 45 minutes on the runway. Tight security has been arranged with around 200 police officers and personnel manning the stretch.

"Highway traffic will be diverted between 10.30 a.m. and noon. Light vehicles coming from Guntur will be diverted from Renangi Varam towards Addanki, and vehicles coming from Ongole will be diverted from Medarametla towards Addanki. Heavy vehicles will be halted on both sides of the highway until the trial run is over," Mr. Jindal said. IAF officials refused to divulge details about the specific types of aircraft that will participate in the trial run.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab. Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.4	16.7	Kozhikode	—	34.5	26.3
Ahmedabad	—	28.4	12.1	Kurnool	—	34.9	22.2
Aizawl	5	—	10.7	Lucknow	—	22.2	7.5
Allahabad	—	24.0	7.9	Madurai	—	32.4	23.6
Bengaluru	—	28.2	19.1	Mangaluru	—	34.5	23.7
Bhopal	—	24.7	10.0	Mumbai	—	33.3	17.2
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	19.8	Mysuru	—	32.4	19.0
Chandigarh	—	21.3	5.9	New Delhi	—	21.8	6.3
Chennai	—	31.3	24.0	Patna	—	18.0	10.2
Coimbatore	3	30.4	22.0	Port Blair	—	29.9	25.2
Dehradun	—	22.2	6.4	Puducherry	—	31.7	22.0
Gangtok	—	8.0	6.9	Pune	—	32.8	17.1
Goa	—	34.5	23.4	Raipur	—	30.0	19.6
Guwahati	—	22.1	12.4	Ranchi	—	25.1	10.6
Hubballi	—	33.0	19.0	Shillong	—	13.6	3.7
Hyderabad	—	33.2	21.0	Shimla	—	13.2	3.7
Imphal	2	21.2	6.9	Srinagar	—	10.0	-5.6
Jaipur	—	24.7	8.5	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	32.6	24.1
Kochi	—	32.0	26.0	Tiruchi	8	31.1	23.0
Kohima	2	17.0	5.0	Vijayawada	—	32.0	23.2
Kolkata	—	25.5	19.8	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	164	.64	134	116	
Bengaluru	—	37	.23	55	61	
Chennai	.22	36	.35	80	70	
Delhi	9	122	.90	323	262	
Hyderabad	3	34	.32	89	97	
Kolkata	.12	5	.30	299	175	
Lucknow	5	49	.91	298	207	
Mumbai	.78	50	115	362	242	
Pune	—	—	.84	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	.12	41	.36	50	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

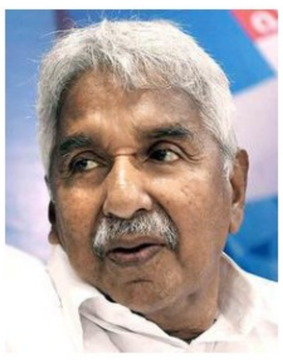
CBI gives clean chit to Chandy in sexual exploitation case

The CBI files report in sealed cover at Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Thiruvananthapuram; alleged victim of the sex-for-political patronage scandal to appeal against the decision

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress perceives a political victory in the decision of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to absolve former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and five other senior leaders of any wrongdoing in a sexual exploitation complaint filed against them by the woman accused in the 2014 solar investment fraud case.

The CBI filed the report in a sealed cover at the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. The details still need to emerge in the public domain.



Oommen Chandy

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday demanded a public apology from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for referring the case to the CBI to "squeeze political advantage" in the run-up to the 2021 Assembly election. Mr. Vijayan overlooked three State police investigations that found no evidence of culpability and despatched the case to the CBI to "wreak political vengeance and gain electoral advantage" on the eve of the election.

The Congress claimed that the CBI also found scant evidence to indict All India Congress Committee general secretary K.C. Venugopal, former Ministers Adoor Prakash and A.P. Anil Kumar; Hibi Eden, MP; and A.P. Abdullakutty, who is currently a top Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) functionary, in the politically sensational case.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran said Mr. Vijayan should express regret for "the pain and disgrace" he visited upon the leaders' families.

The alleged victim of the sex-for-political patronage scandal that rocked the previous Oommen Chandy government said she would appeal against the CBI's decision to discharge the suspects.

Congress veteran A.K. Antony said the leaders emerged victorious after a protracted trial by fire. They said the CPI(M) gambit to denigrate the Congress failed.

'Don't unilaterally accept Sadashiva Commission recommendations'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress legislators Prakash Rathod and P.T. Parmeshwar Naik opposed any move by the Karnataka Government to implement the A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation without discussions with stakeholders.

At a press conference at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on December 28, Mr. Rathod, opposition chief whip in the Legislative Council, said though the official report is yet to be made public, 'leaked' contents had become a source of anxiety and confusion among Scheduled Castes.

The commission, set up in 2005, had submitted its report in 2012. The 'leaked' recommendations appear to suggest not only keeping the creamy layer out of the purview of reservation, but also dropping 101 sub-castes from the list of SCs.

Instead of making recommendations for improving the conditions of SCs, the leaked report appears to 'drive a wedge' among sections of the Dalit community, he contended. Hence, the State should not take any unilateral decision to send the recommendations of the commission to the Centre. Welcoming the decision to constitute a cabinet sub-committee to discuss internal reservation, Mr. Rathod and Mr. Naik, both from the Lambani community, asked the government to distribute copies of the report to 101 sub-castes and stakeholders, and invite objections.

Karnataka will be BRS's first electoral outing; KCR tells MPs, MLAs to help JD(S)

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister and leader of the newly renamed Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), K. Chandrasekhar Rao is looking at the upcoming Assembly polls in Karnataka as the first outing for his outfit as an electoral force outside Telangana.

Senior office-bearers in the BRS told *The Hindu* that Mr. Rao has instructed all party MLAs and MPs to help ally H.D. Kumaraswamy and his party Janata Dal (S) in the upcoming polls in Karnataka. This will not just be in terms of providing organisational and logistical help in fighting resource rich BJP and Congress party in the

K. Chandrasekhar Rao

State, but also campaigning extensively in the seats that fall in the Telugu speaking regions bordering Telangana, also known as Kalyana Karnataka.

"There are around 41 Assembly seats where there are a significant number of Telugu speakers and BRS MLAs and MPs have been asked to campaign for the Janata Dal (S) in those areas," said a senior office-bearer of the party. At the launch of the newly renamed BRS, there was much talk that the JD(S) may like to fight on a BRS symbol, but that is not a possibility now. Former Karnataka Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi chief and Lok Sabha MP Thol Thirumalvalan had attended the opening of the BRS office in New Delhi recently.

Mr. Rao is expected to address a rally or two during the campaign for the Karnataka Assembly polls as well and has, according to those in the know, started familiarising himself with the seats that the party has offered help on. Sources add that Zahirabad MP, B.B. Patil, belongs to the Lingayat community largely found in Karnataka, and will be deployed on behalf of the BRS, as will Narayankhed MLA Rajendra Reddy who has business interests, including several medical colleges in Karnataka. "Whenever H.D. Kumaraswamy arrives for meetings with K. Chandrashekhara Rao, Reddy accompanies the former," said a source.

Telangana also will be going to the polls next year, but a few months later than Karnataka.

Mr. Rao is hoping that a good show by the JD(S) may be an early boost for the BRS.

'Development of pilgrimage sites help showcase country's cultural heritage'

The Hindu Bureau
MULUGU

President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday that comprehensive development of major pilgrimage sites and heritage destinations will help showcase the country's vibrant cultural heritage, promote domestic tourism, create livelihood opportunities, and strengthen local economy.

Telangana was endowed with several places of historical and spiritual significance. Sammakka Saralamma jatara, the biggest tribal festival, was a celebration of the rich tribal culture and traditions that strengthened social harmony and preserve India's glorious cultural heritage, she said referring to the four-day bi-annual Medaram jatara held in Mulugu district in February this year.

Celebrating heritage: President Droupadi Murmu joining Adivasi artists as they perform a traditional dance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ms. Murmu was addressing the Sammakka Saralamma Janjathi Pujari Sammelan organised by the Telangana unit of Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad in Bhadrachalam, popularly known as south Ayodhya, in tribal majority Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Wednesday.

She also inaugurated two Eklavya Model Residential Schools of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Kumram Bheem Asifabad and Mahabubabad districts in the virtual mode on the occasion.

Maiden visit

Earlier, she arrived in Bhadrachalam as part of her maiden visit to Telangana's famous temple town as President.

The President was welcomed by Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana Ministers Satyavathi Rathod, P. Ajay Kumar and others at the helipad near Bhadrachalam.

We will not evict forest dwellers, promises Madhuswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy, on Wednesday, told the Legislative Assembly that the government will not evict any forest dwellers and also make efforts to ensure people displaced due to the Sharavathi project get rights over the forest land granted to them decades ago.

He was responding to a debate over the rights of forest dwellers and the problems being faced by people, who parted with their land for Sharavati Hydel project decades ago.

The Minister said the government would instruct the Forest Department officials to ensure no forest dweller is affected. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had already consulted the Union government on the issue of people affected due to the Sharavathi project.

The government would take consent from the Centre on denotification of the forest land granted to those displaced.

Earlier, raising the issue Hartal Halappa, Sagar MLA, of the BJP, said more than 18,000 families, settled in 232 villages, were displaced due to the Sharavathi project between 1950 and 1965. The government took them to different places and allowed them to settle in forest areas. "However, many of them did not get rights over the land, where they settled. The Congress government denotified the forest land to help the families. However, following a petition by a resident of Shivamogga district, the High Court cancelled the denotification order. The government should come to the rescue of people, who gave up their land decades ago to generate power", he said.

He also wanted the State government to put pressure on the Centre to bring in suitable changes to the Forest Rights Act.

Court and also make efforts at the Central Government to release the forest land in favour of the people settled there", he said.

Special flight to transport PM's brother, relatives to Ahmedabad

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A special flight was arranged to transport Prahlad Modi - brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - and his family members from Mysuru to Ahmedadad, on Wednesday.

Prahlad Modi, his son, daughter-in-law and grandson were being treated at the JSS Hospital in the city for injuries sustained in an accident at Kadakola near Mysuru, on Tuesday. While Modi, his son and daughter-in-law suffered minor bruises, his grandson had a fracture. Though the doctors had said earlier in the day that Mr. Modi and his family members would be discharged on Thursday, it is speculated that the concern surrounding his (Mr. Modi) mother's health who is hospitalised in Ahmedabad, may have led to a change in plan. The Minister for Sericulture and Youth Empowerment, K.C. Narayana Gowda, had arranged for the special flight which was scheduled to depart at around 9 p.m. Mysuru district incharge Minister S.T. Somashekar said further treatment if required, can be availed at Ahmedabad.

Prahlad Modi (second from left) and doctors who treated him and his family members for injuries, at a press meet in Mysuru on Wednesday. S.A.Ramdas, MLA, is also present. M.A. SRIRAM

Church vandalised in Periyapatna

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

St.Mary's Church in Periyapatna was found vandalised and the statue of Infant Jesus and decorative items were found broken and strewn on the premises, on Tuesday.

The incident came to light when one of the workers, Rajanna, entered the premises to switch on the light in the evening and found the damaged pots. He rushed in and found the statue of Infant Jesus and the crib as well as a few decorative items broken.

It is suspected that the church was vandalised when Fr. John Paul had gone out of town and even the caretaker was on leave.

Fr. John Paul in his complaint said that he was in Mysuru to attend a meeting with the Bishop and called Rajanna at around 6 p.m. and directed him to switch on the lights.

Rajanna returned the call soon after and informed him that the idol of Infant Jesus was broken and that is when he learnt of the vandalism. There were a couple of donation boxes that were found broken and the money in them was also stolen, according to the complaint.

This apart, the sound system including the mics were found dismantled and scattered while the decorative lights installed were also damaged, said Fr.Paul. Periyapatna police have registered a case and are investigating.

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Turning tide

Sliding global demand is hurting manufacturing exports already

India's goods exports rebounded from a nearly 17% dip in October to a mild 0.6% uptick in November. While the value of exports recovered to $32 billion from $29.8 billion in October, it is still significantly below the $39 billion averaged between April and September. Imports growth moderated to 5.4% with the value of shipments slipping to $55.9 billion – a level last seen in February 2022, which was followed by seven months of import bills of around $60 billion. The merchandise trade deficit eased below $25 billion for the first time in five months. The easing of some commodities' prices may help curb the import bill and deficit to some extent, but this could cut both ways as the value of some exports that boomed because of global price trends earlier, will also decline. A part of the import bill dip was triggered by lower non-oil cargo, signalling slowing domestic demand, but non-oil exports' performance is a greater worry. Their share in exports growth has been shrinking since June, with the contraction accelerating for many sectors from September to November – engineering goods that drove much of India's record $422 billion goods exports in 2021-22, contracted 11.3% while textiles fell a steeper 25%.

December's pending festive orders may still lift export numbers month-on-month, but the onset of 2023 would spell greater pressures for India's trade story, with key markets heading into a recession. Having grown 11.1% in the first eight months of 2022-23, goods exports could still fall 2.3% over the full year, a CARE Ratings research paper cautioned on Tuesday. While the World Trade Organization expects global goods trade to grow just 1% in 2023, CARE reckons India's exports may rise a meagre 1.5% in 2023-24. Services exports and remittance inflows may cushion India's current account deficit from the goods trade imbalance and restrict the economy's external vulnerabilities, but policy makers need to focus on ensuring a soft landing for factories in export-intensive sectors that are also massive employers so that the global gloom does not hit domestic sentiment. In recent weeks, the Government belatedly scrapped the export duty on steel and iron ore, that was hurting engineering exports too, and brought them under a tax refund scheme with thus-far excluded sectors like drugs and chemicals. Keeping an eye on market realities to respond deftly to emerging challenges is vital for Indian exporters to sustain through the coming turmoil and perhaps, even expand their share in the global trade pie. Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and China saw their share rise even when global trade growth itself slowed in the years before COVID-19. India too, should aspire to emerge stronger from the brewing storm.

Laboured wages

Any delay in funds to be paid to States for MGNREGS payments is unethical

A testy exchange in the Rajya Sabha between the Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, and the Trinamool Congress MP, Jawhar Sircar, on the withholding of funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal laid bare a key implementation issue – wage delays. A report by the non-profit organisation LibTech India found that ₹2,744 crore was still due to workers for work done since December 26, 2021. The delay in the payment, which is contrary to what is stated in Section 3 of the NREG Act, has resulted in a drop in the number of households working under the scheme in the State – from 77 lakh during the pandemic years to 16 lakh in the current financial year. The current number falls short of the 49.25 lakh households which availed the scheme in the last pre-COVID-19 year as well. The Union Government in its response suggested that funds have been blocked only in West Bengal for "non-compliance with the directives of the Central government" and this pertains to prior fund misuse, but the Trinamool Congress government's response is legitimate. The State has answered queries related to the misuse and the blocking of funds to workers; the fact that misuse has reportedly covered only a fraction of the grants suggests that workers are being unduly punished.

Wage delays have been a chronic problem with MGNREGS, which, beyond being a form of insurance for the poorest rural households, was a boon during the pandemic years, giving succour not only to such households but also to migrant workers from urban areas as alternative employment. Earlier this year, the delays in funds disbursal to the States were on account of procedural delays and an overhauling of the Public Financial Management System (Finance Ministry). This should not be a problem if the Union government sets aside adequate funds at the beginning of the financial year. While an emphasis on reducing misuse is necessary – in particular, ensuring that the scheme is put into use by actually undertaking public works – the misplaced reliance on technocratic approaches has stymied its implementation. The Government has now made digital capture of MGNREGS attendance mandatory at work sites, despite issues such as the lack of technical support, the necessity to own a smartphone, and workable Internet connections at the sites not having been fully resolved. A scheme such as MGNREGS needs to evolve while keeping its core idea of a demand-driven work allocation intact. Treating it as a burden will only hurt genuine beneficiaries.

Nepal politics, past, present, and future

Rakesh Sood

is a former diplomat who served as Ambassador to Nepal

The general elections in Nepal that were held in November passed off peacefully but prospects for a stable government remain elusive. Neither of the two electoral coalitions has managed to secure a clear majority. Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' who had broken up with the United Marxist- Leninist (UML) in 2020 and joined the Nepali Congress (NC)-led coalition, once again switched to the UML. On Christmas day, he was appointed Prime Minister for the third time. To demonstrate his majority within 30 days, Prachanda will have to satisfy the demands of the UML and six other political parties with widely diverging agendas.

With 89 seats in a House of 275, the NC emerged as the largest party. It had an opportunity to form both the federal and six of the seven provincial governments with its coalition partners but missed the bus, thanks to the NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba's ego (he is 76 and after five stints, remains convinced of his destiny to be Prime Minister six times) and poor advice. Yet, 30 days is a long time in Nepal's politics and Prachanda may again realise too late that he had been manipulated by UML leader K.P. Oli.

A messy transition

Nepal's transition from a monarchy to a republic began in 2008. In 15 years, Nepal has had three NC Prime Ministers (G.P. Koirala, Sushil Koirala and Mr. Deuba twice), two Maoist Prime Ministers (Prachanda twice and Baburam Bhattarai), three UML Prime Ministers (Madhav Nepal, Jhala Nath Khanal and Mr. Oli twice), and a Chief Justice as caretaker Prime Minister in 2013. In such a fluid environment, political horse trading has been rampant.

Following the adoption of the new Constitution in 2015, elections were held in 2017. Then too, Prachanda was in a coalition government with the NC, but a month before the elections, switched to form an electoral alliance with the UML. He soon realised that he was relegated to being the junior partner with 53 seats compared to the UML's 121. Mr. Oli assumed the post of Prime Minister in 2018 and despite promising Prachanda, never ceded control of the merged Nepal Communist Party.

Mr. Oli's authoritarian traits soon antagonised some of his senior colleagues, Madhav Nepal, Jhala Nath Khanal, and Bhim Rawal, who made common cause with Prachanda. However, Mr. Oli had a clear run till early 2020 because under the Constitution, a no-confidence-motion cannot be entertained for the first two years. By the summer of 2020, intra-party rumblings came to the fore, creating a showdown by the end of the year. Fortunately for Prachanda, a Supreme Court judgement in early 2021, annulled the merger of Maoists with the UML, enabling Prachanda to claim his party back.

> In a politically fluid environment, where horse trading is rampant, the India-Nepal relationship needs 'equality, mutual trust, respect and benefit' to sustain itself, irrespective of whoever is in power

As Mr. Oli realised that he was losing his majority, he tried to retrieve the situation by recommending dissolution of the House. President Bidya Devi Bhandari has been Mr. Oli's close comrade since she entered active politics after the untimely demise of her husband Madan Bhandari, a charismatic UML leader, in a car accident in 1993. Mr. Oli had taken on the role of her political mentor and in 2018, backed her elevation to the presidency.

She reciprocated the favour by ignoring constitutional propriety and approving dubious ordinances that were repeatedly struck down by the Supreme Court.

The Maoists under Prachanda and the dissident group of the UML led by Madhav Nepal eventually jumped ship and backed the NC Sher Bahadur Deuba's appointment as Prime Minister in July last year. The three coalition partners had fought the elections as an alliance but Mr. Oli succeeded in splitting the alliance by weaning away Prachanda, who by his own admission, admits to being easily tempted.

Election results of 2022

The 2008 elections saw the emergence of two new political actors, Maoists who had come overground after waging a decade-long insurgency and Madhesis who spearheaded the call for federalism. Over the years, they have lost their ideological moorings and have aligned with whichever group forms the government. From being the single largest party in 2008 with nearly 40% seats in the first Constituent Assembly, the Maoists are today reduced to 11%; the Madhesis have come down from 15% to 10%.

The 2022 elections have seen new political actors emerge. The Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), a creation of Rabi Lamichhane, a popular TV talk show host, became the platform for the millennial Nepalis, especially the diaspora. They were disenchanted with the self-serving leaders of the NC, the UML and the Maoist parties. However, the RSP MPs are a diverse group who campaigned on their individual platforms and with their own resources.

Similar disenchantment with the Madhesi parties led to the emergence of the Janamat Party, led by C.K. Raut, a former supporter of Madhesi secessionism, and the Nagarik Unmukti Party set up by a Tharu leader Resham Chaudhury who is behind bars, but his wife Ranjeeta Shrestha campaigned successfully in his name. The RSP, Janmat and NUP managed to win 20, six and three seats, respectively.

This fragmentation of votes has led to a lot of 'floaters' who can switch allegiances, just as Prachanda has done. Upendra Yadav (Janata Samajbadi Party) was in talks with the NC when it appeared that it would form the government but shifted back to the UML-Maoist group. The pro-monarchy pro-Hindutva Rastriya Prajatantra Party supporting the secular Communist alliance reflects the opportunism in Nepali politics.

Prachanda may think that he has a secure two-year term but with barely 32 seats (the UML has 78), it is clear that Mr. Oli will call the shots. He will ensure his own candidate as the president once Ms. Bhandari's term ends in March 2023. In the provinces, Maoists will be lucky to get one chief ministership.

India's role

It is at times of political instability that Nepali politicians start looking for the convenient scapegoat of 'foreign interference'. India was conspicuously missing during the election campaign and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to congratulate Mr. Prachanda on his appointment. After 2018, China had played a major role in bringing about a UML-Maoist alliance but failed to keep it intact. Senior Maoist leader Barshaman Pun was in China for medical treatment recently and reportedly played a role in the new UML-Maoist rapprochement.

In recent years, India has retrieved lost ground in Nepal by focusing on project implementation. Since 2022, the Jaynagar-Bardibas railway started with India providing technical support. In 2019, the long-awaited Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline was inaugurated. Power generation in Nepal has picked up. The agreement to export 364 MW signed in June has yielded export earnings of $60 million in 2022. According to the Nepal Electricity Authority, the figure could quadruple in 2023 with the 900 MW Arun 3 becoming operational.

Yet, there are some issues that need to be resolved. Foremost is the demonetised Indian currency issue, pending since 2016. Talks between the two central banks need a political nudge. The second is the recruitment for the Gurkha regiments, held up since the launch of the Agnipath scheme. As Mr. Modi declared during his last visit, the relationship needs "equality, mutual trust, respect and benefit" to sustain it, irrespective of who resides in Baluwatar.

India must build awareness on population control

Aryan Pandey

is a student at Hindu College, University of Delhi, and a researcher with the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)

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Early in December, two Members of Parliament of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Ravi Kishan and Nishikant Dubey, introduced in the Lok Sabha a private members' Bill aimed at population control in India. Stating that population rise is the most significant reason for India's slow rate of development, the Bill argues for an immediate need for population control. The debate and the discourse around India's rising population is not recent, having begun since Independence. India was among the first nations to address its population problem as early as 1951, raising awareness about the ills of overpopulation. While there has been a significant rise in India's population, there has also been a sharp decline in India's total fertility rate (TFR). In 1950, the TFR was at around 5.9%, and is now 2% (fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, or NFHS). There was a steep decline after the 1970s, indicating an inversely proportional relationship between economic prosperity and the fertility rate.

A politicised debate

The debate around the need for population control has been greatly politicised in India. The entirety of this discourse around such a sensitive issue is often reduced to a petty religious issue, and, ultimately, the subject of development suffers.

Nearly six months before the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Yogi Adityanath government and the State Law Commission of Uttar Pradesh came up with a proposed draft Bill, i.e., the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021. Population is a grave concern in the Hindi heartland, especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but the suggestions were more political than practical. The visible attempt was towards an affirmation of the majoritarian politics being played out. For instance, the Bill said that no government job would be offered to couples with more than two children. However, there was no clarification about what would happen to a person who had a third child after being in a government job or if, for some reason, a person with two children remarried and had a third child.

> It is clear that the country does not need a law for forced population control

In another instance, in July this year, while speaking on the occasion of population control fortnight, Mr. Adityanath, said, "It should not happen that the speed of population growth or the percentage of some community is high and we stabilise the population of the 'moolniwasi' (natives) through awareness or enforcement." This statement was perceived to underline the belief in parts of the Hindi heartland that it is a minority community that is responsible for the population burst. The Bill was seen to strengthen political polarisation and facilitate the politics of majority appeasement.

Data shows otherwise

However, data indicate otherwise. NFHS data indicate that although the fertility rate of Muslims is higher than Hindus, the gap between the two has shrunk substantially. In 1992-93, the gap between the Hindu and Muslim fertility rate was 1.1, which now has reduced to 0.35. A close comparison of Census data on average fertility rates is insightful. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh, with around 20% Muslim population, the TFR declined from 5.8% in 1981 to 2.7% in 2011. In Assam, where the Muslim population is about 33%, the TFR is 1.9%. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, where the Muslim population is the majority, the TFR fell from 4.5% in 1981 to 1.4% in 2011. Data also show that Muslims have adopted better family planning measures than Hindus.

India's TFR, 2%, is even lower than the replacement level, signifying a remarkable step in the population control parameters. It is clear that India does not need a law for forced population control. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar too has countered the need for such a law by saying, "forced population control can have very dangerous consequences, it can create a gender imbalance". Forced population control measures have not shown promising results in the countries that have implemented them, the most relevant example being India's immediate neighbour, China. The one-child policy has proved to be disastrous, causing a demographic imbalance. The population of China is aging faster than in any other modern country, owing to the policies of forced population control.

Strengthen the health infrastructure

India needs to adopt population control measures. But the focus should be on strengthening public health infrastructure and raising awareness about the need for population control. Any forced control method will impact the rate of aging. United Nations data show that there is a projected rise in the population of older people and a decline in the young population in many countries. Although the trend started in rich countries such as Japan, the trend is now visible in developing countries as well, especially Southeast Asia. Among these trends, implementing forced population control can only have negative consequences.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Testing preparedness

While the drills being conducted by various States to check their preparedness to face any sudden surge in COVID-19 infections are an important step, a mere count of essential machinery such as ventilators, multi channel monitors, CPAP machines, etc. may not be enough. A random check of such equipment to see whether they are in working condition is necessary. Further, with the earlier experience of a shortage of necessary medicines and their availability in real time should be ensured. Wearing a face mask in public places may be mandated at least until it is confirmed that the possibility of another wave has receded.

Administering the booster dose to those in vulnerable categories should be prioritised and completed in a time-bound manner. In view of the global surge in coronavirus cases, India cannot afford to let its guard down based on hybrid immunity from vaccination and natural infection.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

With the Government doing its part, it is now the citizen's duty to comply with safety guidelines and be self-aware while making travel decisions. Awareness is essential.

Raktima Gupta,
New Delhi

With worrying news from China, the world is again faced with the lurking fear of a pandemic. As far as India is concerned the situation seems to be under control so far and preparedness sufficient to manage any outbreak. The emphasis should be made on making the genome sequencing process more robust and expanding booster coverage. With economic recovery having started, India cannot afford to have any more setbacks.

Sharad Srivastava,
Kotturu, Karnataka

Although it is assumed that the Omicron sub-variant BF-7 is driving the surge of new infections in China and other parts of the world, the presence of other variants/sub-variants of unidentified transmissibility, and virulence cannot be ruled out.

Though a high rate of vaccination has provided India the required protective cover, continuous monitoring, a revamp of the health-care system, and increased genomic surveillance are a must. The complacency, errors, inaction, and horrors of the second wave must not be repeated.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram

Mysterious indeed

The passing of two Russians in a hotel in a remote place such as Rayagada in Odisha calls for a thorough inquiry, more so because they were critics of the Russian President. It will be interesting to see what the Russian Embassy does in the matter that almost appears to be like a plot from the Cold War (Page 1, Odisha orders CID probe into death of Putin critic", December 28). Were the men really tourists?

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

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The legal hurdles in 'freeing' Hindu temples

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram

is Advocate at the Madras High Court and spokesperson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. This article was written with inputs from Haripriya V.

In the last few years, there has been an orchestrated campaign by the BJP to "free Hindu temples" from the control of the government. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai even announced that a law would be introduced in this regard. In non-BJP ruled States, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has spearheaded legal challenges to statutes such as the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (TNHR&CE) Act, 1959. Viewed from any perspective, all such efforts are on weak legal footing and constitutionally problematic.

Legislative history

One of the earliest efforts by an elected government to regulate temples can be traced back to 1927 when the Justice Party enacted the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1927. In 1950, the Law Commission of India suggested that law be passed to check the misuse of funds and properties of temples. The TNHR&CE Act was enacted, but its constitutional validity was challenged before the Supreme Court. In the landmark *Shirur Mutt case*, the Court upheld the overall law, though it struck down some provisions. A revised TNHR&CE Act was legislated in 1959 and holds the field today.

In 1960, the Government of India constituted the Hindu Religious Endowments Commission chaired by Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar to enquire into matters connected with Hindu Public Religious Endowments. The Commission declared that government control over temples was essential to prevent maladministration and observed that the absence of enactments regulating administration of Hindu temples in some States led to "general apathy and consequent neglect of the institutions". As such, both constitutional courts and expert bodies have backed government regulatory control over temple administration.

Early interventions of the Dravidian movement ensured that people belonging to backward classes were given the right to walk on the roads adjoining the Shiva temple in Vaikom and resulted in the promulgation of the Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936. In the subsequent decades, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, especially, have seen significant reforms within Hindu temples that have culminated in the appointment of persons belonging to backward classes as *archakas* (priests) through government action. In August 2021, the DMK made 208 appointments under the TNHR&CE Act which included *archakas* from all castes and a woman *odhuvar* (singer of hymns).

Contrary to the right-wing propaganda that the Dravidian movement is 'anti-Hindu', the TNHR&CE Department has been carrying out its duties efficiently and contributed to the development and betterment of temples. The Integrated Temple Management System digitises temple records with the objective of ensuring transparency and accountability in temple administration. Other initiatives such as setting up institutes for training *archakas*, converting jewellery given as donation into gold bars, providing monthly incentives to priests in nearly 13,000 temples, deploying 10,000 security guards in temples and expediting evictions in cases of land encroachments have been taken up by the Department.

The BJP's promise

In 2021, the BJP promised to hand temples over to "a separate board comprising Hindu scholars and saints". The premise suffers from legal, moral and practical difficulties. There is no explanation as to how temples are to be handed over from the state to a private group. This would also mean giving up public accountability and transparency as writ petitions and Right to Information applications cannot be filed. Importantly, such a move would stall social reforms that have been carried out by the state.

Much of the campaign to "free temples" feeds off the misconception that control of temples by the state is against the principle of secularism. However, the fundamentals of Indian secularism are different from those of western jurisdictions where state and church are totally separate. In India, the freedom to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion (Article 25 of the Constitution) is subject to the power of the state to make laws on the secular aspects of religion. The framers of our Constitution conferred powers to the state to exercise limited control over religious affairs by virtue of Article 25(2). Dr. B.R. Ambedkar observed that religion should not be given a "vast, expansive jurisdiction so as to cover the whole of life and to prevent the legislature from encroaching upon that field" and that the liberty we have is "to reform our social system, which is so full of inequities,... inequalities, discriminations... which conflict with our fundamental rights."

Over the years, the Supreme Court has held in a number of cases that the Constitution only protects practices that are essentially religious and does not preclude the power of the state to make laws on the secular, economic, political or financial aspects of religion. By virtue of such judicial precedents, governments have undertaken significant reforms. Supervisory state control over temples to the extent that it does not affect essential religious practices must be regarded as an inviolable aspect of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has upheld laws such as the TNHR&CE Act and found them to operate within the constitutionally permissible framework of regulating the secular aspects of the Hindu religion. The framers of our Constitution emphasised the need for social reform in religion. And so, any effort to "free Hindu temples" can only be regarded as an attempt to redefine secularism and ultimately rewrite the fundamentals of our Constitution.

The BJP's call to 'free Hindu temples' is logically far-fetched, practically unviable and, if heeded, will stall social reforms

Who will succeed Naveen Patnaik?

A second rung of leaders is largely invisible in the BJD

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
satyasundar.b@thehindu.co.in

On Monday, ministers and senior leaders of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) were self-congratulatory as they marked the 25th anniversary of the party's formation. Few could grudge the celebration in Puri, as the BJD, led by the redoubtable socialite-turned-politician Naveen Patnaik, has proven every pundit wrong about its imminent demise. With five successive victories in Assembly elections and a near-invincible record in electoral politics, the BJD is arguably the most successful regional party in India.

The celebrations, however, could not mask the question on the mind of every BJD leader: who will eventually replace Mr. Patnaik as the head of the party and government? The question has been doing the rounds for the past few years and has not thrown up any convincing answers. The second-rung leadership is largely invisible in the BJD. No leader has come close to replacing him. Over the years, rumours about Mr. Patnaik's successors have died down even before being taken seriously. Whenever this question has been posed to him, Mr. Patnaik has promptly replied that the people will choose his successor.

No serious contenders

Dynastic succession has been the easiest answer to this question in India. Parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu, the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana, the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal are all dynastic. Mr. Patnaik himself is carrying forward the legacy of his father, Biju Patnaik. But his elder brother, Prem Patnaik, and sister, Gita Mehta, have never shown much interest in State politics. As Mr. Patnaik is not married, the name of his nephew, Arun Patnaik, was briefly discussed in political circles and a few of his photographs were circulated in the media. But he has not emerged as a serious contender either.

In 2020, Mr. Patnaik elevated Pranab Prakash Das, three-time Jajpur MLA, to the post of organisational secretary of the BJD. However, Mr. Das has the image of being an apparatchik rather than a mass leader.

Bureaucrats have always played a key role in helping Mr. Patnaik handle governance. Pyarimohan Mohapatra, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, was Mr. Patnaik's main adviser for a long time. In 2012, he fell from grace when after allegedly attempting a coup in the party while Mr. Patnaik was in London.

Since then, the 2000-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer, V. Karthikeyan Pandian, has been considered to be Mr. Patnaik's closest aide. He is Private Secretary to the Chief Minister. In his role as Secretary to the Chief Minister – Transformation and Initiatives (5T), Mr. Pandian appears to have the last word in decisions relating to massive infrastructure development in the State, welfare policies, and the transformation of schools. In the last couple of years, the bureaucrat has represented Mr. Patnaik in reviewing the progress of government programmes and projects. He has been accompanying Mr. Patnaik to almost every government meeting. Further, he has apparently been overseeing Mr. Patnaik's health regime in Naveen Niwas, the Chief Minister's residence.

Though Mr. Pandian has kept away from sharing the stage with Mr. Patnaik in political activities, some groups within the BJD have proposed that he take up the reins from the chief. There are even fan groups of Mr. Pandian on social media crediting him for all the successes of the BJD government.

Building an image

In the absence of a natural heir, the BJD leadership has started carefully building the party's image as that of a people's movement. On the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations, Mr. Patnaik urged professionals from different fields, especially the youth, to join the party. He also appealed to women to take responsibility of the party. "If the party is blessed by women, the BJD will be able to continue to serve people for 100 years, leave alone 25 or 50 years," he said.

The question of succession is a hot topic as political analysts have cautioned the BJD not to follow the path of Tamil Nadu's All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which is grappling with the leadership issue after the demise of J. Jayalalithaa.

Veteran journalist Rabi Das said the BJD appears to be keeping its succession plan close to its chest. This perhaps explains the construction of the massive office in Bhubaneswar, which could serve as the party's headquarters for several decades.

Domestic investors help Indian markets buck the trend in 2022

Retail investors turned net buyers after a gap of 11 years in 2020; this trend has continued in 2022

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

This year was turbulent for markets worldwide as falling stock markets wiped out trillions of dollars in investments in contrast to 2021 when bourses had a significant bull run.

After the stock market crash in March 2020, central banks adopted an accommodative policy stance which made it easier for investors and businesses to borrow. Low interest rates coupled with stimulus packages announced by governments and the easing of COVID-19-related restrictions made indices reach record peaks in 2021.

But in 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in particular, supply chains broke down, which led to a surge in commodity prices. This built inflationary pressures. As central banks raised benchmark rates to curb inflation, markets responded with sharp corrections. As a consequence, financial markets of both emerging and developed economies are ending the year in the red. A few exceptions include Brazil, a commodity-exporting country, and India, where domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have played a pivotal role in counterbalancing the outflows of foreign investors. **Table 1** shows the yearly change in the closing value on December 27 across major markets. Only Brazil, India and Singapore's markets show modest gains of over 2% year to date.

While India's markets outperformed major indices, the year-to-date returns from BSE Sensex were the lowest in the past six years (**Chart 2**). In contrast, in 2020 and 2021, when FPIs were net buyers, the benchmark index yielded a 15% return. Chart 2 shows the closing value of BSE Sensex and the yearly change in closing value for the past 10 years.

The first half of 2022 saw massive selling from foreign portfolio investors who pulled out funds to the tune of $16.25 billion. In the wake of rising interest rates, FPIs resorted to a massive selling spree in emerging market economies and rushed to safe-haven assets. In India, this flight of capital was made up by increased participation from DIIs who were aided by retail investors and strong inflows from systematic investment plans. **Chart 3** shows investments (in ₹ billion) by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and DIIs through NSE in the cash market segment. In the calendar year 2022, FIIs sold equities in the cash market worth ₹3,054 billion while DIIs bought equities worth ₹2,382 billion.

There has been a significant surge in new investor accounts post-2020 in a bid to ride the bull wave. The year 2021 saw an unprecedented rise in retail participation thanks to higher adoption of mobile and digital investing platforms, rising interest in IPOs, the spread of investment culture in Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities and prominence of equity as an asset class (SEBI report). About 30 million new investor accounts were added by NSDL (National Securities Depository Limited) and CDSL (Central Depository Services Limited); close to 26 million new accounts were added in 2022 (**Chart 4**).

Retail participation picked up after the crash in 2020 and has strengthened in the past three years. Retail investors had remained net sellers for 11 years until 2020 when they turned net buyers (**Chart 5**). This trend picked up in 2021 as their net inflows touched ₹1,405 billion. In 2022, inflows by retail investors have been over ₹800 billion. Chart 5 shows the net inflows (₹ billion) by retail investors in NSE's cash market segment.

There have also been healthy inflows through SIPs, a preferred route for retail investors. Inflows through the SIP route recorded a sharp rise in 2021 and continued this year. **Chart 6** shows monthly SIP contributions in ₹ crore.

Investment trends

The data for the charts and tables were sourced from the National Stock Exchange, Securities and Exchange Board of India, BSE and the Association of Mutual Funds in India

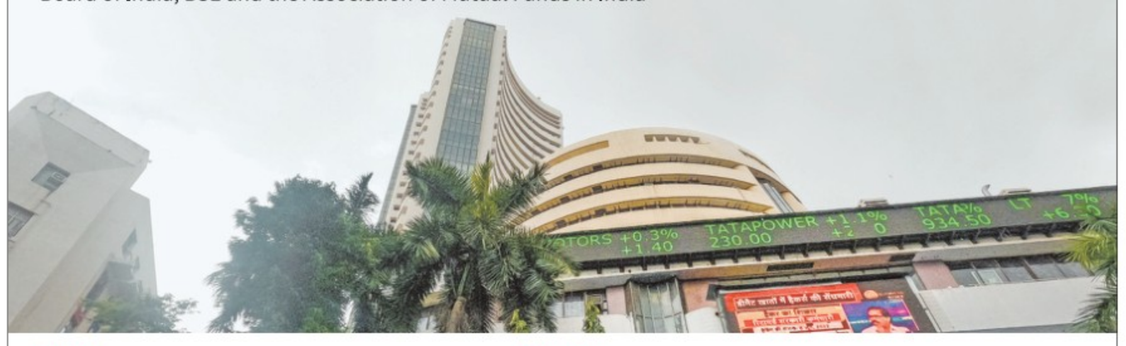


Table 1: The table shows the yearly change in the closing value as on December 27. Only Brazil, India and Singapore's markets show modest gains

Country	Stock exchange	Change
Brazil	BRAZIL IBOVESPA	4.48 ↑
India	Nifty 50	2.87 ↑
India	BSE Sensex	2.95 ↑
China	SHANGHAI COMPOSITE	-14.78 ↓
US	NASDAQ Composite	-34.61 ↓
US	Dow Jones Indus. Avg	-9.14 ↓
Hong Kong	HANG SENG	-15.82 ↓
Japan	NIKKEI 225	-9.74 ↓
Singapore	STRAITS TIMES STI	4.22 ↑

Chart 2 : The chart shows the closing value of BSE Sensex and the yearly change in the closing value for the past 10 years

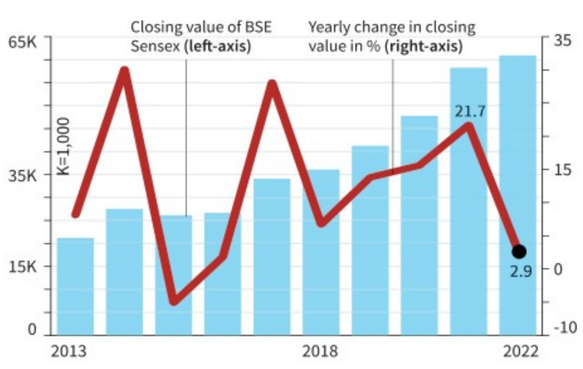


Chart 3 : The chart shows investments (in ₹ billion) by FIIs and DIIs through NSE

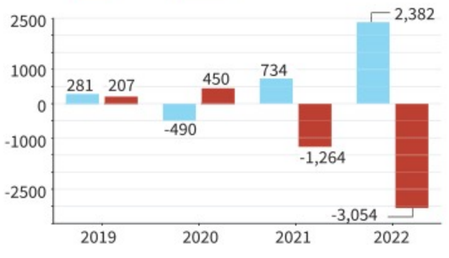


Chart 4 : The chart shows the number (in million) of new investor accounts added in NSDL and CDSL

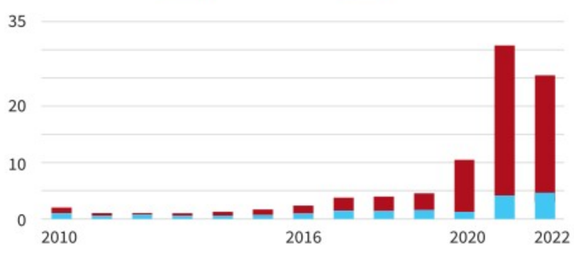


Chart 5 : The chart shows the net inflows (₹ billion) by retail investors in NSE's cash market segment

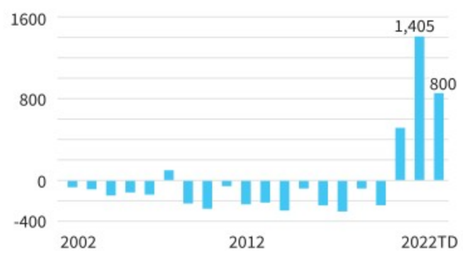
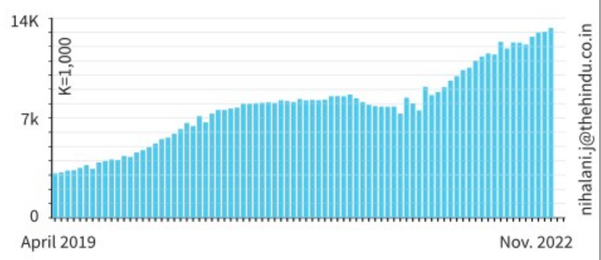


Chart 6 : The chart shows monthly Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions in ₹ crore



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 29, 1972

Arab guerrillas seize Israelis in Bangkok

Bangkok, Dec. 28: Four members of the Palestinian Black September organisation to-day seized the Israeli Embassy, took several hostages and threatened to kill them if their demand for the release of 36 prisoners in Israel was not met by 8 a.m. on Friday. The four burst into the embassy compound in central Bangkok shortly after noon, hung a green, white and red Palestinian flag from upstairs window and tossed a note listing their demand onto the lawn outside. Police immediately cordoned off the area and moved reinforcements carrying automatic weapons. The guerrillas, who police said were also armed with automatic weapons, demanded the release of 36 prisoners who they said were their "captured sisters and brothers in Israeli jails." Among the names mentioned for release was that of Kozo Okamoto, a Japanese who was seized at the Lod airport massacre in Tel Aviv last June. The guerrillas also demanded the return of the bodies of All Taha and Abdul Aziz Al-Atrash who they said were the victims of deceit in Lod airport. The Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Rehavam Amir who returned to the embassy after attending investiture ceremony of Thailand's crown prince was escorted by police into a school building opposite the embassy. He was joined by Gen. Praphas Charusathien, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 29, 1922

Egyptian discovery

Luxar, Dec. 28: Yesterday was a red letter day in connection with the exploration work of Tutan Khamen's Tomb. One of the boxes opened contained the Queen's robes, jewellery, slippers, sandles and magnificent black amber necklace believed to have come from Nubia. The hunting scene in the wonderful inlaid work on the top of the box shows the King with nobles hunting lions and antelope. The King has wounded the lion who faces the pursuers with a most realistic look of rage and of pain. Another object brought out was a perfect alabster case containing unguent for embalming bodies. It is believed that the unguent is of the same nature as that which Mary Magdalene used when she washed Christ's feet. Much historical evidence is being corrected which was hitherto accepted on records discovered.

From Page One

COVID-19 spike likely, but no wave: official

The test positivity rate (positive cases per test) is 0.23%. This, however, can point to limited testing and does not on its own correlate to the existing number of cases.

While four BF.7 have been detected in India since July, there has not been a measurable rise in severity.

"No mathematical modelling can reliably estimate what can happen. However, given that we have a large portion of people with hybrid immunity (protection from vaccination and exposure to variants such as Delta and Omicron), we don't expect a noticeable rise in severity. Results from the drill held yesterday in several States show we are well prepared," the official said.

6.39 lakh beds available

The drill to ascertain the health infrastructure's preparedness in case of a surge was conducted in several States on Tuesday.

Nearly 20,000 hospitals – 5,000 of which were private ones – across India participated in the drill. A total of 6.39 lakh beds are available for COVID-19 patients – 2.79 lakh COVID isolation beds; 2.46 lakh with oxygen-support facility; 64,711 intensive care unit (ICU) beds; and 49,236 with ICU-cum-ventilator provision. There are 1.7 lakh doctors, 3.2 lakh nurses, 1.6 lakh paramedics and 15,000 AYUSH practitioners trained in COVID-care management. This is roughly 85% of India's available medical workforce.

Eleven tourists from Myanmar, who were isolated at the Safdarjung hospital in Delhi on December 25 after one of them tested positive for COVID-19, have now been discharged after all of them were confirmed to be negative.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said he would be visiting the international airport in Delhi to take stock of testing and screening facilities.

4 terrorists shot dead in Jammu, say J&K police

Probe on: Reports suggested the militants may have infiltrated from the LoC in the Jammu division. AP

Mr. Singh said there were inputs about unusual movement of a truck on the highway and an alert was sounded to stop the truck. "A manhunt has been launched to apprehend the driver. Searches are being carried out at bus stands, railway stations and market places. All *nakas* have been alerted," he said.

The Sidhra anti-militancy operation continued for a couple of hours, in which the truck also caught fire. The police investigation suggested that the numberplate of the truck and chassis were tampered with.

"The help of forensic teams will be sought. Other scientific and electronic evidence are being collected to identify the group to which they belonged and to identify the OGW [over ground worker] support structure," Mr. Singh said.

Describing the operation a success, he said the security forces had stepped up alert along the border in view of the Republic Day. "More details about the association of the terrorists and their plans are part of the investigation and will be shared at appropriate time," the ADGP said. The scrutiny of seized items is being done to obtain more clues, the police said.

Preliminary reports suggested that the militants may have infiltrated from the International Border or the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu division.

The encounter took place in the Jammu division just two days after an improvised explosive device (IED) weighing 15 kg was defused in Udhampur district. A huge consignment of arms and ammunition was recovered from a truck in the Narwal area of Jammu two weeks ago.

8 killed in stampede at TDP chief's meeting

Unaware of the seriousness of the situation, Mr. Naidu initially waited for the din to settle so that he could resume his speech.

When the news of the deaths was confirmed, he rushed to the hospital where the victims were taken for treatment. He announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased, and said his party would also shoulder the responsibility of their children's education.

Mr. Naidu's public meetings have been attracting huge crowds. Earlier, thanking the people of Kandukur, he said he had visited the place many times in the past but this was the first time he had seen this kind of a crowd and such unprecedented enthusiasm.

Police to look into veracity of 'power of attorney'

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police will verify the veracity of the "power of attorney" based on which the Rayagada police cremated the bodies of Russian billionaire Pavel Antov and his friend Bydanov Vladmir.

As per general practice, the bodies should have been buried. However, the Rayagada police consigned the bodies to flames following the permission allegedly granted by the children of Antov and Vladmir through a "power of attorney". The cremation of the Russian nationals has triggered suspicion.

In the "power of attorney" allegedly granted by Anna, daughter of Antov, through the Consulate General of Russia, Kolkata, the Rayagada police were requested to hand over the post-mortem report to Turov Mikhail, who was accompanying the Russian lawmaker.

The "power of attorney" was in the Russian language, while an English translation was annexed with it.

Vladmir's son had sent the "power of attorney" through the Consulate General of Russia, Kolkata.

Putin critic suffered multiple injuries, says post-mortem report

Antov died presumably from a fall from second floor of a hotel in Odisha on Christmas eve; his friend Vladmir died of cardiac arrest, say doctors

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Pavel Antov, a Russian billionaire businessman found dead on the premises of an Odisha hotel, died from rupture of the left lung, liver and spleen leading to haemorrhage, shock and death, says the preliminary post-mortem report.

Antov, 65, who had spoken out against the Ukraine war and was a detractor of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was killed presumably from a fall from the second floor of Sai International Hotel in Rayagada of Odisha on December 24.

Doctors ruled that Antov's friend, Bydanov Vladmir, 61, found dead in his hotel room on December 22, died of cardiac arrest.

Two-day gap

Antov died on Christmas eve, and the post-mortem examination was carried out at the district headquarters hospital at 5.05 p.m. on December 26.

Doctors found multiple injuries on the body which were all ante-mortem (injuries inflicted or having occurred before death) in nature. "The post-mortem report pointed out only causes of death. We have to collect circumstantial evidence to find out if Antov ended his life on his own or was pushed off the terrace," said a police officer on condition of anonymity.

Pavel Antov

> The post-mortem report pointed out only causes of death. We have to collect circumstantial evidence to find out if Antov ended his life on his own or was pushed off the terrace
> **POLICE OFFICER**

The police had earlier said that both Antov and Bydanov had consumed excessive alcohol on the evening of December 21.

Bydanov was found dead the following morning. According to police sources, there were pieces of broken glass at his room.

The post-mortem report of Bydanov says doctors could not arrive at a conclusion. The cause of death could only be ascertained from the final findings of visceral analysis.

The report said the body of Bydanov did not have any external or internal injury. However, evidence of chronic diseases, including "bilateral plural effusion and huge cardiomegaly extending to the left lung, with left coronary descending artery thrombosis measuring more than four inches", was found.

The Odisha Police Crime Branch is investigating.

U.P. local body polls after implementation of OBC quota: Maurya

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Keshav Prasad Maurya

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said on Wednesday that the State government was ready to approach the Supreme Court, if required, after the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday ordered that local body elections in the State should be held without reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

The High Court said the State had not done enough to follow the "triple-test formula" as suggested by the Supreme Court. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said he would put in place measures to complete the "triple-test formula".

The formula was suggested by the Supreme Court to provide OBC reservation in urban local body elections. It requires the States to appoint a commission, collect quantifiable data of the community, and allocate reservations to them in the local bodies without exceeding the 50% total reservation.

"We respect the honourable High Court's decision, but we cannot agree with its decision. Our government and the BJP is committed to providing justice and representation to all OBCs and we will be holding the local body polls only after the reservations have been implemented," Mr. Maurya said.

"To not do so [provide reservations] would be an injustice to 54%-55% of the population of the State, and our government's intention is to do justice to this population," he said. He criticised the politicisation of the issue by the Opposition Samajwadi Party, which said that the BJP-led government's neglect in not going by the Supreme Court's "triple-test formula" in deciding reservations had led to the High Court order.

"The SP as a party has only used the OBC communities to benefit one family, they have no leg to stand on when it comes to this issue," he said.

As courts insist on triple-test rule for OBC quota in polls, State governments push back

NEWS ANALYSIS

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As the clamour for a caste census grows across India, with several States looking to introduce reservation for the Backward Classes in urban local body polls, the judiciary, over the course of 2022, has established time and again that caste population surveys conducted by the States are not enough to provide for political reservation in local body elections.

The most recent instance of this was when the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday shot down the caste census conducted by the Uttar Pradesh government to enumerate the Other Backward Class (OBC) population across the State, holding that an exercise of "counting of heads" cannot be enough, prompting U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to say his government would do whatever was required to reserve OBC seats in the local body polls.

> While notifying the elections, the seats and offices of chairpersons, except those to be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, shall be notified as for general/open category
> **ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT**

Rapid survey

Within a month of taking office as Chief Minister in his first term, Mr. Adityanath's BJP-led government had on April 7, 2017 ordered a caste census in the State, issuing directions for a "rapid survey" to count the population of OBCs ward-wise in each municipal corporation, municipal council, and panchayat area. A similar survey was called for in a June 2022 government order and based on the population, seats were reserved. Similarly, the Bihar government went on to reserve seats for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) in its local body polls.

The triple-test requires a State government to set up a dedicated commission for a contemporaneous rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of backwardness specifically with respect to local bodies; specify proportion of reservations required for political representation based on the dedicated commission's recommendation; and ensure total reservations for Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST)/ OBC groups do not exceed 50% of the number of total seats.

Political representation

In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad High Court noted that the government's enumeration exercise had "missed a crucial factor" as it "does not provide for inquiry into political representation of backward class of citizens in municipal bodies" – holding that the dedicated commission must also ascertain under-representation in municipal bodies (if any) and its extent, and reserve seats in accordance.

While shooting down the Bihar government's notification on reserving seats based on population, the Patna High Court had made a similar point on distinguishing the social and education backwardness of a group from its political backwardness. Within days of this order in October, the Bihar government re-constituted its Extremely Backward Classes Commission and designated it as the "dedicated commission" to conduct this exercise.

The Commission submitted its report in a month, in favour of reservations and the State Election Commission notified the polls, which are currently under way.

Similarly, after the Supreme Court stopped attempts for reserving seats in local body polls of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, both State governments formed dedicated Commissions to look into this, which favoured quota in its reports – reports that the Supreme Court has accepted for the time being.

Delegated law should not travel beyond purview of parent Act: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delegated legislation, including rules and regulations formed by the State and Central authorities, should not supplant but supplement the parliamentary statute from which it draws power, the Supreme Court held in a judgment.

"If a rule goes beyond the rule-making power conferred by the statute, the same has to be declared invalid. If a rule supplants any provision for which power has not been conferred, it becomes invalid," a Bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and J.B. Pardiwala observed.

A delegated power to legislate by making rules or regulations cannot be exercised so as to bring into existence substantive rights, obligations or disabilities not contemplated by the provisions of the parent statute, Justice Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, wrote.

"Delegated legislation should not travel beyond the purview of the parent Act. If it does, it is *ultra vires* and cannot be given any effect," he said.

The court laid down the law in an appeal filed by the Kerala State Electricity Board against a High Court decision which upheld Regulation 153(15) of the Kerala Electricity Supply Code, 2014. Regulation 153 (15) provided that 'unauthorised additional load' in the same premises and under the same tariff shall not be reckoned as 'unauthorised use of electricity' except in cases of consumers billed on the basis of the connected load. It reversed the High Court decision while holding that the Regulation was inconsistent with Section 126(6) of the Electricity Act, 2003. Section 126 of the 2003 Act was enacted with with a specific purpose to restrict such unauthorised consumption of electricity.

Amit Shah reviews security, development projects in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday reviewed the security situation and development-related issues in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, calling for the timely completion of projects.

A statement issued by the Home Ministry said Mr. Shah reviewed the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security and gave necessary directions to follow the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism in the Union Territory.

The Minister directed the officials to strive for their best to achieve 100% saturation of the beneficiaries under various schemes and ensure the benefits of development reached every section of society. The terror ecosystem comprising elements that aid, abet, and sustain the terrorist-separatist campaign to the detriment of the well-being of common man should be dismantled, the Minister said.

Top priority: Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a review meet with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. PTI

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, Central Reserve Police Force Director-General Sujoy Lal Thaosen, and Jammu and Kashmir Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh, among others.

G-20 campaigns for online safety, digital innovation unveiled

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Inviting the world to make use of the 'India Stack' (India's set of open APIs and digital public goods) and announcing that India would soon also similarly open up its telecom stack, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday launched the 'Stay Safe Online' campaign and the Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) programme. These were lauded by G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant as among the first-ever programmes to be launched worldwide as a G-20 initiative.

At the launch, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Alkesh Kumar Sharma, said that the DIA is meant to "unite the innovation ecosystems" of G-20 countries and nine invitee countries to recognise and support start-ups developing innovative digital solutions.

The DIA programme will have 174 start-ups from member countries with invitee countries sending in entries for digital solutions in six key sectors, which will be showcased at a three-day event in Bengaluru in August 2023.

The 'Stay Safe Online' campaign aims to raise awareness about cyber risks and the need for cyber hygiene in an increasingly digitising world.

Strong bond: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his mother, Hiraben, in this file photo. PTI

PM's mother Hiraben admitted to hospital, condition stable

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Hiraben, 100, was on Wednesday admitted to the U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre here with some health issues. Her condition is stable, the hospital said.

Mr. Modi visited his ailing mother in the afternoon. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Health Minister Rushikesh Patel also visited the hospital. "Honorable Prime Minister's mother is admitted at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and her condition is stable," the hospital said in a statement.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and other political leaders wished a speedy recovery to Ms. Hiraben.

Society being divided by hate, says Congress chief

People hit by price rise and unemployment but the government is not bothered, says Kharge on the Congress's 138th foundation day; he highlights the party's role in progress of the country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The fundamental values of India are being constantly attacked and society is being "divided by hate", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday, targeting the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Addressing party colleagues on the occasion of the 138th foundation day of the Congress, Mr. Kharge said the people of the country were being hit by price rise and unemployment but the government was not bothered.

The Congress chief said several other countries became independent around the time India became free, but "only we emerged as a successful and strong democracy within a few decades and became a superpower in economic, nuclear and strategic areas, agriculture, education, medical, IT and services sector".

Way ahead: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and other leaders on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"This did not happen on its own. This happened due to the Congress's faith in democracy and our inclusive ideology of taking everyone along and due to our full faith in the Constitution that gives equal rights and opportunities to all," Mr. Kharge said.

He unfurled the party's flag at the All India Congress Committee headquarters in the presence of party workers and senior leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Important milestones

Mr. Kharge said the party had its imprint on every important milestone in the progress of the nation in the past 75 years. He noted that India progressed as the Congress displayed the courage to free the poor, oppressed and Dalits of their thousands of years of fetters.

"I am proud that I am a part of such an organisation which chose the path of truth, non-violence and struggle in every situation and always took every step in public interest," Mr. Gandhi tweeted, sharing pictures of Congress foundation days during the freedom struggle.

Step up security for Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress tells Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday to express concern about security breaches during the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi.

He urged Mr. Shah to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of all the Bharat Yatris.

The letter comes just days before the yatra resumes its onward march through the sensitive State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from January 3.

Mr. Venugopal said that there were multiple breaches in security when the yatra entered Delhi. He also cited an FIR filed against "unknown miscreants", who allegedly belonged to the Haryana State Intelligence unit, for illegally entering the containers at the yatra's camp site in Sohna.

The Congress leader also alleged that "to harass participants and prevent eminent personalities from joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) is interrogating people who participated".

Talking about the Delhi leg, Mr. Venugopal wrote: "The security of yatra was compromised on multiple occasions and the Delhi Police completely failed to control the surging crowds and maintain a perimeter around Rahul Gandhi, who has Z+ Security. The situation was so severe that Congress workers and Bharat Yatris walking with Rahul Gandhi had to form a security perimeter. At the same time, Delhi Police remained mute spectators."

He noted that the Congress has lost party leaders and former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi for the sake of the country's unity.

"Bharat Jodo Yatra is a padyatra to bring peace and harmony to the country. The government should not indulge in vindictive politics and should ensure the safety and security of the Congress leaders," the leader added.

"Moving forward, Bharat Jodo Yatra is slated to enter the sensitive State of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir in the next phase starting from January 3, 2022. In this regard, I request you to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Shri Rahul Gandhi, a Z+ protectee, and of all the Bharat Yatris and leaders joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Mr. Venugopal said.

INBRIEF

Ex-Maharashtra Minister Anil Deshmukh released from jail

Former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh was released from Arthur Road Jail on Wednesday after more than 13 months. He was arrested on charges of corruption and money laundering. On December 27, the Bombay High Court refused to extend the stay on bail granted to the senior Nationalist Congress Party leader in an alleged ₹100-crore corruption case by the CBI. On October 4, he was granted bail by the court in a money-laundering case against him by the ED.

Shinde flays statements by Karnataka leaders on Mumbai

Both the Eknath Shinde government and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition censured statements of some Karnataka leaders that Mumbai ought to be declared a Union Territory and that it ought to belong to Karnataka. "Mumbai belongs to Maharashtra and the Marathi-speaking people... it is not the property of someone's father that they can just stake claim to it. Such provocative statements cannot be tolerated by anybody," Mr. Shinde said.

Lodhi voters free to make any ballot choice: Uma Bharti

BJP leader Uma Bharti has said that members of the Lodhi community – a numerically significant backward caste and key vote bank for the BJP – were free to vote for any party that served their interests. The latest statement from Ms. Bharti - a former Chief Minister sidelined by the party organisation in Madhya Pradesh - comes at a time when the 2023 Assembly election is on the horizon. She was addressing an event in Bhopal.

Giving free rations is an admission of starvation country faces: CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government's latest announcement that it will provide free rations under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is a clear admission of the starvation that the population is facing, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

The party has demanded the continuation of both the free 5 kg of foodgrains that the government started giving during the COVID-19 pandemic under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and another 5 kg at subsidised rates under the NFSA. The statement was released after a two-day meeting in Delhi on Wednesday.

The statement said: "The 'free' ration under the 2013 Food Security Act for nearly two-thirds of our people for the year 2023 is an admission that the spectre of hunger stalking the country cannot be overcome otherwise. This is the truth despite the vociferous denial by the Modi government of the Global Hunger Index describing hunger in India as 'very serious'."

The party said 81.35 crore people would be denied 5 kg of foodgrains at the subsidised rate of ₹3 kg for rice, ₹2kg for wheat and ₹1 kg for coarse grains under the NFSA. "As a consequence, in order to make up for the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrains, essential to maintain nutritional levels, people will have to go to the open market where wheat is selling around ₹30+ / kg and rice at ₹40 +/ kg. This would be a cruel blow to households sstruggling to survive," it said.

Cong. starts yatra in Bengal

KOLKATA: West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday started an 800-km yatra from Ganga Sagar.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 57,58/2022-23/SE/PHC/MVPA, (JJM)-WSS – to Santhanpara, Rajakumary (Part) and Senapathy (Part) Panchayaths in Idukki District-Package IIIA-Supplying and Laying Distribution and providing FHTC in Rajakumary GP, JJM-WSS TO CHAKKUPALLAM, VANDANMEDU, KARUNAPURAM AND VANDIPERIYAR PANCHAYATS IN IDUKKI DISTRICT-Providing FHTCSto households in Vandanmedu panchayath, **EMD:** Rs. 500000 each, **Tender fee:** Rs. 16540 each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 18-01-2023 04:00:pm, **Phone :** 04852835637.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1313-2022-23 PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

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Tenders are invited by the undersigned from IRDAI Registered Insurance Companies for providing Group Health Insurance Policy for regular employees and their dependents, pensioners and family pensioners of APCPDCL, APSPDCL AND APEPDCL for a period of 1 (one) year. The Tender Notice will be available for download on A.P e-Procurement portal from 29-12-2022. Due date for submission of bids is 12-01-2023. For any further information, please visit https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.apcpdcl.in.
Place: Vijayawada, Date:28-12-2022 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (HRD)

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Long Term Tender Notice
IFB Nos.102/2022-23 Dt.13.12.2022 (2nd Call)
Tender for the work of "Permanent restoration work to Hagari Aqueduct, Construction of Piles for damaged Piers for Pier No. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 of Hagari Aqueduct at Km 121.000 of RBLLC" is re-invited in respect of LLC Division, Ballari through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	29.12.2022 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	12.01.2023 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	12.01.2023 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage:	12.01.2023 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage*:	17.01.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage:	17.01.2023 at 3:00 PM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
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Fax 08394 - 259167 I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

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(तृतीय तल, बी-ब्लॉक, उद्योग भवन, जयपुर फोन- 0141-2227723 Email- rajeevika@rajasthan.gov.in)
File No. F.2(111)RD/RGAVP/HR Tender/2018/P-3/22322 Date:- 22.12.2022
Corrigendum
Bids for hiring an agency to provide services for the Human Resource on Direct contract and on Job Basis for RGAVP are invited from interested bidders up to 05.01.2023 (time) 11.00 A.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and **http://www.rajeevika.rajasthan.gov.in**. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 7,55,00,000.
UBN:- RGA2223SLOB00170
Raj.Samwad/C/22/12359 (SPM Admin)

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD
Engineering Department
Office of the University Engineer
P.O. Central University, Hyderabad-046. Ph No. 040-23132300, 2306
Ref: UH/ENGG/UWD/2022-23/305 Dt : 15.12.2022
TENDER NOTICE
NAME OF THE WORK:- Architectural services for Conservation and Restoration of Heritage buildings of Golden Threshold Building in University of Hyderabad Campus located at Abids. **Estimated cost:-** Working Estimates are to be prepared by the Consultant / Architect and required to supervise the work if required, please login to our website: **http//www.uohyd.ernet.in** and upload documents on **https://eprocure.gov.in/** on after **16.12.2022** upto **10.01.2023 at 3.00 PM.**
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222313 005870	Procurement of Ortho Phosphoric Acid 85% Purity for Unit - I and Unit - II	11.01.2023
222313 005935	Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine #1, 2 & 3	12.01.2023
222323 003639	Procurement of Water Antiscalant for Pulpmill of TNPL Unit - II	13.01.2023
E-Mail	222313005870 & 5935 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 222323003639 - purchasechem.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Websites & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
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राजस्थान खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड, जयपुर
क्रमांक: रा.खा.ग्रा.बो. / प्रशिक्षण / 2022–23 / 883–884 दिनांक:– 26.12.2022
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Bids for (1) Supply of 8 spindle New Modal Charkha estimated value Rs. 108.00 lacs & (2) Supply of Semi Automatic Paddle Loom with 60" Reed Space/Workable width with Installation estimated value Rs. 185.00 lacs are invited from interested bidders upto 12.30 PM dated 16.01.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state.
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Raj.Samwad/C/22/12371 Secretary

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Senior Scientist	02 posts (UR)	Level – 12	₹1,39,956/-	37 years
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Last date of submission -05-Jan-2023 05:30 PM
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Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

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CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553
TENDER ALERT
1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC.23/2022-23: Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of high temperature low sag (HTLS) conductor after dismantling of ACSR Panther Condutcor in existing 132kV Pratapsasan-Kesura-Ranasinghpur line (Approx. Line Length-35.588 KM), at an estimated Cost of the Package for Rs.14.31 Crore in Khurda district of Odisha on Turnkey Contract Basis.
2)E-Tender Call Notice No.TW-IT-OT-05/2022-23: Bids are invited from reputed eligible bidders fro IT FMS (Facility Management Support) Service for OPTCL (For 2 Years) with an estimated cost of Rs.1,99,68,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Nine lakh sixty eight thousand only) conforming to the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document.
Complete set of bidding documents are available on the tender portal: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal, and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.**
HIPR-46/2022-23
CAD-4308 OIPR-04011/11/0145/2223

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No. : OSMCL/2023-24/DRUGS-IVIG/01 Date : 28/12/2022
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) Drugs as per the particulars mentioned below :**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	28/12/2022, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	31/12/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		03/01/2023, 3 PM	24/01/2023, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee of tender document.	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		25/01/2023, 10 AM	01/02/2023,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	01/02/2023, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
SD/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
CAD-4297 OIPR-10112/11/0051/2223

INBRIEF

Air Suvidha may reopen for travellers from 5 countries

The government could resume mandatory self-declaration of COVID-19 status on the Air Suvidha portal for travellers from Japan, South Korea, Thailand, China and Singapore, Health Ministry sources said on Wednesday. Last Saturday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said a negative RT-PCR test would be made mandatory for tourists arriving from these four countries. However, the government is yet to update its guidelines for international travellers. The guidelines were last updated on December 22, 2022 which requires random testing for 2% of passengers on each international flight.

18 deaths due to syrup made by Indian firm: Uzbekistan

The Health Ministry of Uzbekistan on Tuesday said 18 children, with acute respiratory disease, have died from taking excessive doses of a cough syrup, Doc-1 Max, manufactured by Marion Biotech, an Indian firm. India's Health Ministry officials said they were "aware" of the report from Uzbekistan but declined to comment. "Tablets and syrups of the drug Doc-1 Max are withdrawn from sale in all pharmacies of the country," reads the translation of the statement from Uzbekistan's Health Ministry. Preliminary laboratory studies have shown that this series of Doc-1 Max syrup contains ethylene glycol, which is toxic, Uzbekistan has said.

Praveen Kumar Srivastava appointed Acting CVC

Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), officials said on Wednesday. Mr. Srivastava's appointment comes after Suresh N. Patel completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission on December 24. The commission is headed by a CVC and can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners. Besides Mr. Srivastava, former Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar is the Vigilance Commissioner. During his tenure as Special Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, Mr. Srivastava handled matters relating to police cadre management.

U.P. issues notices to varsity officials in conversion case

The Uttar Pradesh police have issued notices to the Chancellor and other high-ranking officials of Prayagraj-based Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), a deemed university, asking them to explain their role in an alleged religious conversion event held in April. The investigating officer of the case issued notices to Chancellor Jetti A. Oliver, Vice-Chancellor Rajendra B. Lal and administrative official Vinod B. Lal. In April, a complaint was lodged by Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) activists that Hindus from marginalised sections were induced to convert to Christianity in Fatehpur by some people.

After 2020 COVID blip, road fatalities on the rise

Number of road accident deaths in 2021 was 1.9% more than in 2019, shows government report; road accident severity, or the number of people killed per 100 accidents, rose from 33.7 to 37.3

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fatalities due to road accidents resumed their upward trajectory, after a rare decline in 2020 due to restrictions on movement during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Road accident deaths increased by 1.9% in 2021 from the 2019 figure, show the Road Transport Ministry's annual report released on Wednesday.

A total of 4,12,432 road accidents were reported in the country last year, claiming 1,53,972 lives and causing injuries to 3,84,448 people, say the Road Accidents in India-2021 report. These translate into an average of 1,130 accidents and 422 deaths every day or 47 accidents and 18 deaths every hour.

Young adults in the 18-45 age group accounted for 67.6% of victims during 2021. People in the working age group of 18-60 made up 84.5% of total road accident fatalities. Those under 18 totalled 5% of all road accident deaths, and those above 60 accounted for 7.6%.

Road accident severity – the number of persons killed per 100 accidents – increased from 33.7 in 2019 to 37.3 in 2021.

The most number of fatalities was in the "hit from behind" category of accidents, which accounted for 18.6% of the total road accident deaths. A close second was death due to "head-on collision", which contributed to 17.7% of the total deaths. The other major types of collision which caused deaths were "hit and run" (16.8%), and "hit from side" (11.9%).

Of deaths from violation of traffic rules, speeding was a major killer, accounting for 69.6% of the fatalities, followed by driving on the wrong side of the road (5.2%). Use of mobile phones contributed to 1.9% of the total road fatalities and jumping traffic signal lights contributed to 0.5%.

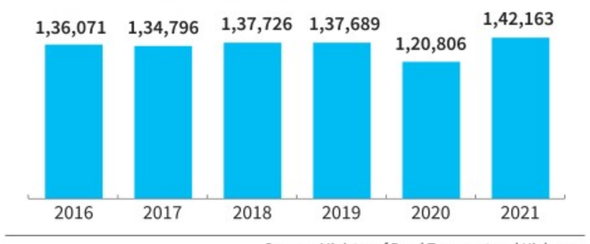
Among road users, the most impacted were two-wheeler users, who accounted for 40.7% of the deaths, followed by pedestrians (16.9%), those travelling in cars or taxis (16.4%), users of trucks and lorries (8.9%), and others (7.6%).

Out of 1,42,163 fatal accidents reported in 2021, 50,953 (35.8%) were on National Highways, 34,946 (24.6%) were on State Highways and 56,264 (39.6%) were on other roads.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for the largest share of fatalities at 13.8%, followed by Tamil Nadu (10%), Maharashtra (8.8%), Madhya Pradesh (7.8%), and Rajasthan (6.5%). Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have seen a rise in their share of fatalities from the 2019 figure.

Road tragedies

The number of fatal accidents has remained over 1.3 lakh every year over the past few years, except in 2020 because of lockdowns brought on by the pandemic



Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Eklavya teachers to receive training in computer science

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Workshops to start in 54 schools in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Andhra and Telangana

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda on Wednesday kicked off a two-day training programme for teachers of Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students, which is meant to serve as "a stepping stone in creating awareness about the potential of computer science in students of EMRS", the Ministry said in a statement.

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), which administers all EMRSs, said the training workshop for teachers was a capacity-building exercise for them to implement the Amazon Future Engineering Programme – a corporate social responsibility initiative of Amazon India – in collaboration with the non-profit Learning Links Foundation.

While inaugurating the workshop, Mr. Munda said that this collaboration would empower teachers and students in the field of digital education and would help in initiating digital communication with people living in far-flung areas.

Class chat sessions

This training workshop will start at 54 EMRSs across six States – Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana – that have the requisite infrastructure. The training modules will include courses in computer science fundamentals and introduction to coding, logical sequencing, learning loops, block programming using open secure source platforms like code.org, as well as class chat sessions to discuss the technology space and different technology initiatives.

MGNREGS funds release is continuous process: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> The Congress should compare the total expenditure incurred on the scheme during its tenure and that was spent post-2014
>
> **GIRIRAJ SINGH**
> Rural Development Minister

Hitting out at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his allegation that the Centre failed to pay MGNREGS dues to the States, Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh said the release of money for the scheme is a continuous process and the liability figure is dynamic.

In a tweet on Tuesday evening, Mr. Kharge said: "The Modi government is determined to snatch away the right to employment for rural India that was ensured by the Congress under MGNREGA. Why has the government not paid ₹4,919 crore worth of MGNREGA wages to Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Karnataka and others?"

To this, Mr. Singh tweeted later that night, saying: "Before indulging in petty politics on MGNREGA, the Congress should compare the total expenditure incurred on the scheme during its tenure and that was spent post 2014. The release of money to the States under MGNREGA is a continuous process and the country knows that the Modi government is committed to ensuring the rights of the poor," he said.

The Minister also quoted the statistics of expenditure between 2006 and 2014 and 2014 to December 2022 that showed that over ₹2.13 lakh crore had been spent during the UPA tenure, and post 2014, ₹5.82 lakh crore had been spent under the MGNREGA.

As per the Ministry's reply in Parliament, the Centre owes ₹4,000 crore to various States.

Darjeeling hill politics set for new alignments as Binay Tamang quits Trinamool

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Binay Tamang, a prominent leader of the Darjeeling hills, on Wednesday resigned from the Trinamool Congress, signalling a new alignment in the hill politics of West Bengal. Mr. Tamang's resignation comes on a day the Bhartiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) and the Trinamool Congress wrested power in the Darjeeling Municipality from the Hamro Party.

The Hamro Party, a relatively new political party, won the Darjeeling Municipality election in February, securing 18 of the 31 seats. However, in November, six councillors of the Ajay Edwards-led party joined the BGPM-Trinamool combine. On Wednesday, a no-confidence motion was moved by the councillors of the BGPM and none of the councillors of the Hamro Party and Independents supported by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) turned up. The BGPM led by Anit Thapa is perceived to be close to the Trinamool and had won the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) election in June this year.

Binay Tamang

The resignation of Mr. Tamang also comes at a time when the BGPM and the Trinamool have developed a comfortable political understanding. Mr. Tamang was one of the key leaders who brokered peace during the 107-day violent agitation in the hills in 2017. He then broke away from GJM founder Bimal Gurung and started discussions with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2017.

Mr. Tamang had formally joined the Trinamool Congress almost a year ago in December 2021.

Speaking about his decision, Mr. Tamang blamed the "undemocratic activities in Darjeeling hills" and alleged rampant corruption. He said he would continue to serve the Gurkhas. Earlier this month, Mr. Tamang was also seen at a seminar organised by GJM president Mr. Gurung in Delhi on the creation of Gorkhaland.

The Hamro Party chief, Mr. Edwards, was also present at the seminar. This development indicates the coming together of former allies, Mr. Tamang and Mr. Gurung, and also Mr. Edwards.

Politics in the hills has centred on the demand of a separate State of Gorkhaland.

The Trinamool Congress has been opposed to the idea, which entails carving out a State from the Gorkha-dominated areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

Norms to rank cities based on financial governance launched

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday launched guidelines for a new finance-based ranking of cities, which would evaluate urban units on 15 key parameters, including resource mobilisation, expenditure performance and fiscal governance. A separate ranking will also evaluate cities on beautification.

The rankings are aimed at motivating city and State officials to implement municipal financial reforms.

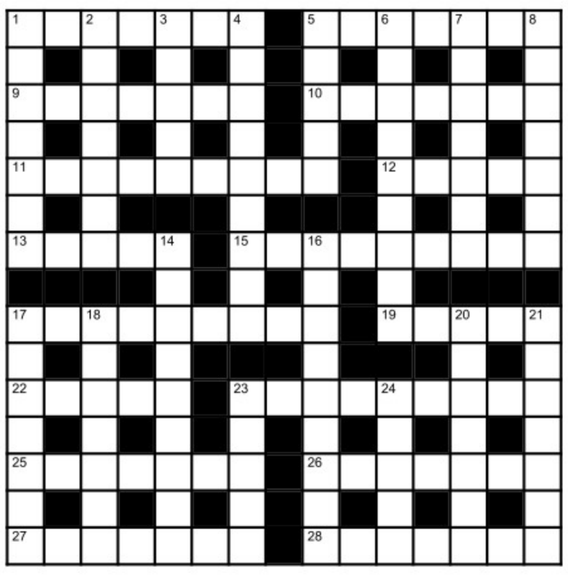
"India has embarked on the most ambitious plan for urban rejuvenation undertaken anywhere in the world. A healthy sense of competition gives the best performing cities a sense of pride," Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Hardeep Singh Puri said. A 'City Beauty Competition' initiative was also launched to rank cities on accessibility and aesthetics.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13749

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Try out Uber's video app (7)
5 Dry, soft and bent (7)
9 Writer John, reflecting over preface to story (1,1,5)
10 International retreats visited by head of venture funds (7)
11 Institute books large property without specifying who will take over (9)
12 Fire I kindled, imbibing alternative therapy (5)
13 Staff blend fruit (5)
15 Passage in fort that is next to river, seized by Don Al (9)
17 Blue sheet, blankets, black tee - for frequent flyers? (3,3,3)
19 Small reclining bed to accommodate one patient (5)
22 Fills vessel with fresh tea (5)
23 Like a Greek hero, a South American chains rebel's foot (9)
25 Have issue with relatives? (7)
26 Wine, say, fermented somehow or the other (7)
27 Returned close to boundary and stopped the ball after suppressing force (7)
28 Thousands covering up swindle about working age (5,2)

Down

1 Removing black earth from this element yields a silvery metal (7)
2 Left on the table after dinner? In the end, you clean up (7)
3 Portions from nuts I distributed (5)
4 Gates is tense about restricting scuttled programming language (9)
5 Cardinal, prince and king making an ascent (5)
6 People like Spooner run... always on top of targets (9)
7 Unfriendly news-anchor irritates leading experts at the start (7)
8 Secret circle rescinded decree (7)
14 Vendors juggling with limits of price bust cost budget (9)
16 Impossible to see? Drop position, says Spooner (5-4)
17 Irritable about wife shedding clothes for show (7)
18 Teen waves, holding flag in city near Lake Victoria (7)
20 Doctor likes fancy stone pillar (7)
21 Worry almost immediately after entering well-known nuclear research centre (7)
23 Confused student dropped supplementary (5)
24 Inexperienced tyro discharged order to stop sailing (3,2)

SUDOKU

				4				3
1		8	5			6		2
		5					7	
	6	9		5				
			6		2			
				9		1	6	
	4					3		
5		6			8	4		1
8				7				

No.SS5663 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	R	O	B	E				C	H	A	S	M	
A		H		R		L		N		E		R		T
T	S	U	N	A	M	I		A	G	I	T	A	T	E
T		B		C		E		I		F		D		T
E	V	A	D	E		S	U	R	R	E	N	D	E	R
S		R		L		F				R		H		I
T	A	B	L	E	C	L	O	T	H		D	A	I	S
				T		A		I		S				
D	O	H	A		S	T	E	R	E	O	T	Y	P	E
E		A		A				E		L		E		D
M	U	M	A	N	D	D	A	D		D	E	L	H	I
E		S		N		I		O		I		T		B
A	C	T	R	E	S	S		U	T	E	N	S	I	L
N		E		X		H		T		R		I		E
	F	R	I	E	S				A	S	A	N	A	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	5	6	2	8	9	3	1
8	6	1	7	3	9	2	4	5
2	9	3	4	5	1	8	6	7
3	2	9	5	7	4	1	8	6
6	5	8	1	9	3	4	7	2
4	1	7	2	8	6	3	5	9
9	8	6	3	1	7	5	2	4
5	3	4	9	6	2	7	1	8
1	7	2	8	4	5	6	9	3

FAITH

Guru Gobind shows the way

Saints and savants, born in modern era show us the way to God and godliness in Kali Yuga. One such was Guru Gobind Singh, who was only nine when his father, the ninth Guru Tegh Bahadur was martyred. He stoically took up the leadership of the Sikhs, at a trying time. His exemplary life is an epitome of courage and resoluteness. It is an inspiration for all in contemporary times. He was an icon transcending time, space, boundaries, narrowness and fragmentation, said Professor Kumool Abbi.

Ever fresh and invigorating, his eternal vibrant lyrical mellifluous bani reverberates and continues to guide the path to millions, teaching them to live a life of moral fortitude, faith, service, righteousness and bravery.

In the year 1699 Guru Gobind Singh formed the institution of the Khalsa. The order of the Khalsa was an egalitarian one. Guru Gobind Singhji's pluralistic philosophy encompassed the acceptance of diverse religious identities advocating religious harmony. He wrote 'recognize the human race as one....' His role of life summarised in his own words 'The preceptor lord has sent me for the promotion of Dharma. Seize defeat and knock the tyrants and evil doers down' He fought fourteen wars against his oppressors and tyrants, his goal being to ensure religious freedom.

He is credited with finalising the (manuscript of Guru Granth Sahib) and declaring it to be the ultimate Guru for the Sikhs. It is his vision which has given a distinct identity to the Sikhs. Guru Gobind Singh's metaphysical sublime and exquisite poetry has been immortalised in his composition Dasam Granth.

VATICAN CITY

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in critical state, says the Vatican

AP

The Vatican says the health of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has undergone a "worsening in the last hours" due to his age and that doctors are constantly monitoring the 95-year-old's condition. Pope Francis didn't elaborate on the condition of Benedict, who resigned as pontiff in February 2013, the first pope to retire in 600 years. AP

KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prachanda to move into PM's official residence today

REUTERS

Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" will move into the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar here on Thursday. The 68-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre leader was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the third time after he joined hands with Opposition leader K.P. Sharma Oli. PTI

SEOUL

North Korea's Kim lays out key goals to boost military power

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presented new plans to further bolster his military power next year at a meeting of top political officials, state media reported on Wednesday. Mr. Kim's statement came as animosities with South Korea rose sharply this week with the South accusing the North of flying drones across the border. AP

TOKYO

Japan PM floats possibility of polls before defence Budget tax hike

AFP

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday floated the possibility of calling a snap election before a tax increase aimed at funding the country's defence Budget comes into place "sometime after 2024". The government is set to implement tax increases to cover a shortfall of 1 trillion yen ($7.47 billion). REUTERS

China's pivot in COVID plan sparks jitters worldwide

U.S. officials say they are considering COVID entry restrictions on travellers from China, after countries including Japan and India introduced PCR testing on arrival for Chinese passengers

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Beijing's sudden pivot away from containing COVID-19 has caused jitters around the world, with the United States saying it may restrict travel from China following its decision to end mandatory quarantine for overseas arrivals.

China late on Monday scrapped quarantine for inbound travellers from January 8 onwards, dismantling the last remaining piece of its stringent zero-COVID policy and ending some of the world's harshest border restrictions.

The move was greeted with jubilation by Chinese citizens, who rushed to book international flights, triggering a surge in ticket prices.

Hospitals and crematoriums across China continue to be overwhelmed by an influx of mostly elderly people.

Opening up: Chinese immigration authorities say they will resume issuing passports for tourism purposes from January 8. AFP

Dozens of mostly elderly COVID patients were lying on gurneys in overflowing hospital emergency wards in Tianjin, 140 kilometres (87 miles) southwest of the capital Beijing on Wednesday.

Medical staff are "pretty much all" expected to continue working despite testing positive for the virus, one doctor said.

Other countries have expressed concerns about the potential for new variants to emerge as China battles the world's biggest surge in infections.

Restrictions ahead

U.S. officials said late on Tuesday they were considering COVID entry restrictions on travellers from China, after countries including Japan and India introduced PCR testing on arrival for Chinese passengers.

The United States is "considering taking similar steps" to countries such as Japan and Malaysia, they added. Taiwan, a self-ruled island that China claims as its own, said on Wednesday that it would also screen travellers from the mainland for the virus.

China's loosening of measures effectively brought the curtain down on a zero-COVID regime of mass testing, lockdowns and long quarantines that has stalled its economy and triggered large-scale nationwide protests.

Chinese immigration authorities said on Tuesday they will resume issuing passports for tourism purposes from January 8, after years of strict exit controls.

The winter surge comes ahead of major public holidays next month in which hundreds of millions of people are expected to travel to their hometowns to reunite with relatives.

Bangladesh opens first metro line

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's sprawling capital inaugurated its first ever metro rail line on Wednesday as authorities work to ease congestion that has throttled growth and inflamed tempers in the gridlocked metropolis.

Dhaka is one of the world's most densely populated cities, and daily commutes along its car-clogged roads are a source of constant frustration for its 22 million people.

The new elevated train network has been in development for nearly a decade and is slated to grow to over a hundred stations and six lines criss-crossing the city by 2030.

The line is expected to carry 60,000 people each hour when it is fully operational.

U.S. digs out from monster storm as death toll passes 50

Agence France-Presse
BUFFALO

The monster storm that killed dozens in the United States over the Christmas weekend continued to inflict misery on New York state and air travellers nationwide on Tuesday, as stories emerged of families trapped for days during the "blizzard of the century."

The number of deaths attributed to the winter storm rose to more than 50 after officials confirmed three more fatalities in western New York's Erie County, the epicentre of the crisis.

The police department "expects that number to rise", tweeted Byron Brown, Mayor of the lakeside county's biggest city Buffalo – which has been paralysed for five days by

Far from home: Residents are seen digging out of the snow in Buffalo, New York, on Tuesday. AFP

chest-deep snow banks and power outages.

As temperatures plummeted, commuters and some residents fleeing their freezing homes became trapped on highways, unable to be rescued. The problem was compounded when some areas were rendered inaccessible to ambulances for dozens of hours and snowplows were unable to perform their job due to the ferocity of the storm – necessitating rescuers being rescued in certain cases.

The National Weather Service forecast a respite of warmer temperatures around 10 degrees Celsius by the weekend, although officials warned that melting snow could result in minor flooding.

U.S. man gets jail for Governor kidnap plot

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

One of the two ringleaders of a far-right U.S. militia group which plotted to kidnap and kill Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer was sentenced to 16 years in prison on Tuesday, the Justice Department announced.

Adam Fox, 39, was convicted alongside co-defendant Barry Croft, 47, for conspiracy in planning the Democratic governor's kidnapping and preparing to use weapons of mass destruction in the 2020 plot.

The attack was planned as a response to Whitmer's COVID-19 quarantine policies

He and several others in the militia, including an FBI informant, planned the attack on Ms. Whitmer in part as a response to her COVID-19 quarantine policies but also, they had said, to start a civil war.

The sentence came 12 days after three others who participated in the plot received sentences.

Netanyahu govt.'s top priority is West Bank

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu's incoming hard-line government put West Bank settlement expansion at the top of its list of priorities on Wednesday, vowing to legalize dozens of illegally built outposts and annex the occupied territory as part of its coalition deal with its ultra-national allies.

The coalition agreements, released a day before the government is to be sworn into office, also included language endorsing discrimination against LGBTQ people on religious grounds, as well as generous stipends for ultra-Orthodox men who prefer to study instead of work.

The package laid the groundwork for what is expected to be a stormy beginning for Mr. Netanyahu's government and could put it at odds with large parts of the Israeli public and Israel's closest allies abroad.

Its lengthy list of guidelines was led by a commitment to "advance and develop settlement in all parts of the land of Israel."

Pakistan court frees rapist after deal to marry victim

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR

A Pakistan court freed a rapist after he married his victim in a settlement brokered by a council of elders in the northwest of the country, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Dawlat Khan, 25, was sentenced in May to life imprisonment for raping a deaf woman. He was released from prison after the Peshawar High Court accepted an out-of-court settlement agreed by the rape survivor's family.

Eye-for-an-eye sharia system returns to courts in Afghanistan

Agence France-Presse
GHAZNI

Kneeling in front of a turbanned judge in a tiny room at the Ghazni Court of Appeal in eastern Afghanistan, a convict sentenced to death for murder pleads for his life. Under sharia punishments, officially ordered by the Taliban's supreme leader for the first time last month, he faces public execution.

Islamic law, or sharia, acts as a code of living for Muslims worldwide, offering guidance on issues such as modesty, finance and crime. However, interpretations vary according to local custom, culture and religious school of thought. Taliban scholars in Afghanistan have employed one of the most extreme interpretations of the code, including capital and corporal punishments little used by most modern Muslim states.

Afghan Taliban have employed one of the most extreme interpretations of the code.

Court proceedings in Afghanistan take place in a small room, with participants sitting on a carpeted floor. The cramped room, heated by an old wood stove, has a bunk bed in a corner, on which religious books and a Kalashnikov rifle are placed.

If the convict's appeal fails, the case goes to the Supreme Court in Kabul, and finally to supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, who validates all capital sentences.

Government of Karnataka
JOINT DIRECTOR,
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, DHARWAD
Tel No: 0836-2447201 Fax No.:0836-2435475
Email : dswo.dharwad@gmail.com
NO:JDSWD/S-1/SCSP-TSP/CR-2/2022-23 Dated: 27/12/2022

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Short term e-Tender Notification has been Called for Providing Consultancy Services as 3rd Party (Third Party) Inspection and Monitoring for all Development & Maintenance Works, under Various Fund of Social Welfare Department in Dharwad though e-procurement.

Events of E-Procurement.

E-Tender Notification date : 29.12.2022, Estimated amount put for e-Tender Approximately amount Rs. **4.95** Crores, Date of uploading the e-Tender forms **29-12-2022** from afternoon 3-00 pm., Last date for uploading the e-Tender **18-01-2023** from 5-00 pm., Pre bid meeting date **09.01.2023** from 3-00 pm., Technical bid opening date **21-01-2023** afternoon 4-00 pm, Financial bid opening date **24-01-2023**, 3-00 pm., Contact address of the officer for enquires / information Joint Director Social Welfare Department, Dharwad, Mobile No. **9480843032 / 9902475108**, Telephone No. **0836-2447201.**

Sd/- Joint Director,
Social Welfare Department,
Dharwad.

DIPR/DWD/MCA/910/2022-23

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com
Tel No: 0836-2447090

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders for the following works are invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. **This office Tender Notification No: 1725, Dated: 26-12-2022**. **(1)** Improvements of Water Supply Scheme to Navalgund Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3264. (2)** Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Bankapur town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3265. (3)** Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Channamma Kittur Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3266 (4)** Improvements of water Supply Scheme to Kalaghatagi Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – NoVariation).**WORK_INDENT/3267. (5)** Providing pressurized water supply Distribution system to Hungund Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3268 (6)** Providing pressurized water supply Distribution system to Zone-3 of Guledgudda Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3269.(7)** Providing Pressurized Distribution Water Supply Scheme to DevaraHipparagi Town Under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3270. (8)** Providing, Pressurised Water Supply Distribution System to Kolhar Town under AMRUT 2.O including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3271. (9)** Providing Water Supply Distribution system to Kamatagi town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3272. (10)** Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Managuli town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3273.**For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may please be contacted.

Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

DIPR/DWD/907/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Teleph.No: 08392-266123
No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-3/2022-23/4636 Dated:23-12-2022

Notification

Subject : Invite for Quatations.

Quations are invited for the supply of Dual Desks to Govt. Primary Schools from 5th Std to 8th Std. of all talukas of Ballari and Vijayanagara Districts approved in 2020-21 under KKRDB (Macro Projects) interested agencies are submit the quotations inclusive of all taxes on or befor 31-12-2022 upto 4.00PM.

For any additional information the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/747/MCA/2022-23

Karnataka Public works Department.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,
No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE.3/T.No.46/2022-23 Dt: 22.12.2022

Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW. 4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-2 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under Head of account 4059-Deaprtmental Buildings in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through e-procurement. The dates are published as below. (Amount Put to Tender Rs.321.00 Lakhs, EMD: 480435/-)

1. Last date for tender information queries: **30.01.2023** : 16.00 2. Last date for submission of tender. : **31.01.2023** : 16.00 3. Date of opening the Technical bid. : **01.02.2023** : 16.30 4. Date of opening the Financial bid. : **03.02.2023:** 11.00

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

DIPR/TUM/812/MCA/2022-23

(Public Works Department)
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 23-1/2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022

(For Building Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 1 & 3 in single cover and two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in single cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD for Building works of Bagepalli Assembly Constituency. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **27.12.2022 to 04.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm.**

(1) Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **31.12.2022 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **04.01.2023 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Financial & Technical Bids: **05.01.2023 (up to 4.30 pm). (Applies only to works of K.W. -1 & 3) (4)** Date of opening Financial Bid after approval of Technical Bid: **07.01.2023 at 11.00 am.** (Applies only to works of K.W. -3). For more information visit website www.kpwd.gov.in or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 410/ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/2022–23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

INBRIEF

Reliance Jio introduces 5G services in 11 cities

Reliance Jio introduced 5G services in 11 cities, including Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Mysuru, Nashik, Aurangabad and Chandigarh, marking the largest multi-State roll-out of the services till date. The services have also gone live in Mohali, Panchkula, Zirakpur, Kharar and Derabassi. Jio users in the cities will be invited to the Jio Welcome Offer, to experience unlimited data at 1 Gbps-plus speeds, at no additional cost starting Wednesday, Jio said. PTI

CCI said to issue notices to Google for not paying penalties

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is understood to have issued demand notices to Google for its failure to pay within the stipulated time the penalties imposed on the Internet major for anti-competitive practices, according to sources. In October, the watchdog slapped penalties totalling ₹2,274.2 crore in two separate cases relating to the Android mobile system and Play Store policies. According to Google, appeals have been filed in both the cases. PTI

UCO Bank plans to raise up to ₹1,000 crore by issuing bonds

State-owned UCO Bank on Wednesday said it is planning to raise up to ₹1,000 crore by issuing debt securities. The bank's board will consider the proposal for raising tier I capital in the form of additional tier I bonds in one or more tranches aggregating to ₹1,000 crore, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing. The board of directors of the bank is scheduled to meet on January 3, 2023 to take up the proposal to raise funds. PTI

'FDI chasing services sector despite manufacturing push'

Trend likely because doing business in the services sector is less complicated than in manufacturing in India, says Ind-Ra; 'bulk of FDI in manufacturing not fresh investments'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Despite the Centre's high-octane push for manufacturing through the 'Make in India' initiative, foreign investors continue to chase bets in the services sector, India Ratings and Research said on Wednesday.

It also said a bulk of the foreign direct investment (FDI) in manufacturing was not greenfield or fresh investments. "Despite the government's effort to attract more investments in the manufacturing sector through 'Make in India' campaign, the FDI inflow is still tilted in favour of the services sector." it said.

"This could be because doing business in the services sector is less complicated than doing business in the manufacturing sector in India." It added that services FDI rose to $153.01 billion between April 2014 and March 2022, from $80.51 billion between April 2000 and March 2014, while manufacturing grew slower to $94.32 billion from $77.11 billion.

Within services, trading, telecom, banking/insurance, IT/BPO and tourism were favourites.

Computer software and hardware have done well, and saw further traction after the roll-out of production-linked incentives, with Apple, Samsung, Flextronics, and Nokia announcing large investments in India.

Servicing trade

Services FDI rose to $153.01 bn between April 2014 and March 2022, from $80.51 bn in April 2000-March 2014

- FDI in manufacturing grew slower in the same period to $94.32 bn, from $77.11 bn
- Within services, trading, telecom, banking/insurance, IT/business outsourcing and hotels/tourism have been favourites
- Computer software and hardware did well; sector saw more traction after PLI roll-out with Apple, Samsung, Flextronics, and Nokia announcing large investments

Jyotiraditya Scindia

Civil aviation seeing strong V-shaped recovery, says Scindia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The country's civil aviation sector is witnessing a very strong V-shaped recovery with encouraging domestic passenger numbers, and the growth will continue in the coming years, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday.

After being significantly impacted by the pandemic, the daily domestic air passenger traffic has been above the four-lakh mark for the past few weeks.

On the congestion at airports that has now eased, he said efforts had been made to ensure that operators put in place steps that would allow decongestion.

About the current coronavirus situation and its shadow on the aviation sector, Mr. Scindia said COVID was always a concern.

"The very fact that we have very high COVID numbers across the world today from China to South Korea to Japan to European countries, it is certainly a concern," the Minister said in an interview.

Oil prices slide on worries about COVID surge in China

Reuters
SINGAPORE

Oil prices fell on Wednesday on concerns that rising COVID-19 cases in top oil importer China will disrupt its economic recovery as it unwinds pandemic curbs, limiting fuel demand growth.

Brent crude futures fell $1.82, or 2.2%, to $82.51 a barrel by 1623 GMT.

Fears around a potential global economic recession next year also weighed on crude oil prices.

DoT dials telcos on call drop, service quality; discusses interventions, steps needed

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Telecom Department on Wednesday met operators to discuss rising instances of call drops and service quality-related issues, as it deliberated on policy interventions that can be considered for improving call quality.

The meeting, coming amid the roll-out of 5G networks, was chaired by Telecom Secretary K. Rajaraman and attended by telecom service providers, including Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.

Illegal boosters

The issue of interference from illegal boosters and Right of Way (RoW) challenges came up for discussion at the meeting. Sources said that operators made a detailed presentation to the Department of Telecom on current levels of service quality against stipulated benchmarks.

DoT sources said the department was taking a long-term view of service quality-related matters and had asked players to identify problem areas, and suggest policy interventions that could improve call connectivity.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,910	-0.03
US Dollar	82.80	0.12
Gold	55,124	0.09
Brent oil	82.12	-3.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3797.70	28.05
Adani Ports	810.35	-6.80
Apollo Hosp	4588.65	-55.15
Asian Paints	3123.70	11.10
Axis Bank	924.70	-7.50
Bajaj Auto	3586.85	-4.10
Bajaj Finserv	1522.70	-15.00
Bajaj Finance	6476.10	-28.60
Bharti Airtel	803.80	-11.00
BPCL	324.10	-1.90
Britannia Ind	4385.95	16.70
Cipla	1085.80	-10.05
Coal India	223.20	1.95
Divis Lab	3446.35	-30.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4252.75	1.90
Eicher Motors	3211.55	9.75
Grasim Ind	1752.55	13.15
HCL Tech	1035.45	-0.90
HDFC	2671.30	2.20
HDFC Bank	1629.80	-1.30
HDFC Life	568.20	-1.60
Hero MotoCorp	2696.60	-5.75
Hindalco	465.95	-5.05
Hind Unilever	2583.60	-9.65
ICICI Bank	898.95	-1.70
IndusInd Bank	1214.15	11.80
Infosys	1510.15	-4.70
ITC	334.40	1.25
JSW Steel	761.70	-3.25
Kotak Bank	1820.10	-0.80
L&T	2121.10	-3.00
M&M	1252.35	18.10
Maruti Suzuki	8421.05	115.60
NestleIndia	19843.60	67.60
NTPC	165.85	0.65
ONGC	143.90	-0.90
PowerGrid Corp	215.75	3.10
Reliance Ind	2544.45	-0.25
SBI Life	1242.05	1.00
State Bank	601.05	-0.85
Sun Pharma	995.00	-5.15
TataConsumerProduct	780.15	2.30
Tata Motors	391.30	-2.85
Tata Steel	110.00	-1.15
TCS	3257.10	-2.40
Tech Mahindra	1016.25	6.70
Titan	2580.15	76.60
UltraTech Cement	7053.80	-53.40
UPL	723.55	7.20
Wipro	387.80	1.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.66	82.98
Euro	87.93	88.27
British Pound	99.63	100.02
Japanese Yen (100)	61.79	62.03
Chinese Yuan	11.85	11.90
Swiss Franc	89.02	89.36
Singapore Dollar	61.33	61.58
Canadian Dollar	61.17	61.41
Malaysian Ringitt	18.67	18.76
Australian Dollar	55.97	56.19

Source:Indian Bank

'Unregistered person can get GST refund on revoked pact'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Unregistered persons can claim Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds for cancelled contracts or premature termination of insurance policies by obtaining temporary registration on the GST portal, the Finance Ministry has said.

The new functionality is available on the GST portal and the unregistered person can obtain a temporary registration on the portal using his Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Bharti mulls up to ₹28,000 cr. network capital expenditure, says no premium price for 5G

Press Trust of India
NEW DELH

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel plans to invest ₹27,000-₹28,000 crore in its telecom network with a focus on 5G roll-out, a company official said.

While the telco is planning to raise capital expenditure by 10-15%, it has no plans to charge a premium rate for 5G services as it has not worked in many countries that tried to do so.

"Airtel capex will be in line with that spent in the last three years, the official, who did not wish to be named, told PTI.

Faster 5G roll-out

It may go up and down because of the faster roll-out of 5G – around ₹27,000-₹28,000 crore.

According to data shared by the Telecom Ministry, Bharti Airtel had rolled out 3,293 5G base stations till November 26.

The Average Revenue Per User, or ARPU (a key metric for telcos), stood at ₹190 for the July-September 2022 quarter, compared with ₹153 in the same period a year earlier with a focus on quality customers, feature phone to smartphone upgradation and data monetisation.

Toyota Innova HyCross prices to start at ₹18.3 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Wednesday said the all-new Innova HyCross has been priced starting at ₹18.3 lakh (ex-showroom).

The topmost variant has been priced at ₹28.97 lakh (ex-showroom).

"We are certain the pricing will strengthen the legacy of brand Innova while boosting Toyota's quest for promoting sustainable mobility," said Atul Sood, associate VP, Sales and Strategic Marketing.

Trade pacts with Australia, UAE to help boost exports, say promotion councils

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Various export promotion councils (EPCs) on Wednesday lauded the trade agreements signed by India with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia, saying the pacts will help India boost exports by granting preferential access to those markets for Indian products.

Engineering Exports Promotion Council said India had benefited from preferential market access provided by the UAE on more than 97% of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the region in value.

After the India-UAE pact, gem & jewellery exports to the region witnessed overall growth of 20%

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which will come into force from December 29, is expected to create 10 lakh jobs, and raise Indian goods exports to Australia by $10 billion.

Pankaj Parekh, regional chairman, the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, said the ECTA would help double India's gem and jewellery exports to Australia, from its current $350 million to $800 million in three years.

Post the India-UAE CEPA in May, gem and jewellery exports to the region witnessed an overall growth of 20%.

Sport

Alimon Saidalavi races to victory in Unrestricted category

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Bengaluru's Alimon Saidalavi, astride a Kawasaki Ninja H2, raced to victory in the Unrestricted category that highlighted the second round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Wednesday.

Earlier, Riyaz, riding a Suzuki Hayabusa, scored a notable victory over fancied Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) from Bengaluru in the 1051-1650cc category with Mujahid Pasha, also from Bengaluru, finishing third.

Local rider Soundari Antanthraj (AS Motorsports) took the honours in the Girls (4-Stroke, Stock 165cc) category, edging out Mumbai's Sarah Khan (Axor Sparks Racing) and Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR) from Puducherry.

The results (Provisional, all 4-Stroke Super Sport unless mentioned): Unrestricted: 1. Alimon Saidalvi (Bengaluru) (8.022secs); 2. Saurabh Parab (Mumbai) (8.073); 3. Md Riyaz (Hyderabad) (8.178).
1051-1650cc: 1. Md Riyaz (Hyderabad) (8.108); 2. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) (8.144); 3. Mujahid Pasha (Bengaluru) (8.220).
851-1050cc (Support race): 1. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) (8.012); 2. Saurabh Parabh (Mumbai) (8.013); 3. Md Riyaz (Hyderabad) (8.228).
551-850cc: 1. Saurabh Parab (Mumbai) (8.424); 2. Sidharth Srikantha (Bengaluru) (13.276); 2. M. Badhusha (Chennai) (13.721); 3. R. Madhan Kumar (Chennai) (14.393).
Upto 165cc (Super Sport Indian): 1. Bharath Raj (Rockers Racing, Chennai) (14.395); 2. Mohammed Arfath (Bengaluru) (14.621); 3. M. Badhusha (Chennai) (14.880).
2-Stroke 131-165cc: 1. Shreyas Hareesh (Rockers Racing, Bengaluru) (12.615); 2. Prashanth (Bengaluru) (12.748); 3. Aiyaz Rem (Bengaluru) (12.931).
2-Stroke Upto 130cc: 1. Abdul Shaikh (Bengaluru) (13.296); 2. Prashanth (Bengaluru) (13.381); 3. Mohamed Rafiq (Bengaluru) (13.565).
Girls (165cc, Novice): 1. Soundari Ananthraj (AS Motorsports, Chennai) (16.340); 2. Sarah Khan (Axor Sparks Racing, Mumbai) (16.421); 3. Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR, Puducherry) (16.453).

Shreyas Hareesh, winner in the 2-Stroke 131-165cc categor.

Parmar (Mumbai) (8.561); 3. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) (8.774).
361-550cc (Super Sport Indian): 1. Bharath Raj (Rockers Racing, Chennai) (12.033); 2. Mohammed Shakir (Rockers Racing, Chennai) (12.332); 3. Anish Shetty (PRN Motorsports, Bengaluru) (12.348).
166-225cc (Support race): 1. P.

Four share lead after big names fail to win

Sports Bureau

Sakshi Chitlange, Aashna Makhija, Vrushali Deodhar and Bristy Mukherjee emerged as the surprise leaders with three points after the top four seeds dropped half-a-point to far lesser-rated players during the sensational third round of the MPL National women's chess championship at Kolhapur on Wednesday.

The day proved a tough one for the reputed names as top seed Vantika Agrawal, second seeded defending champion Divya Deshmukh, former champions Mary Ann Gomes and Bhakti Kulkarni, seeded three and four, were held to draws.

The four-player leaders' group was formed after Aashna surprised seventh seed Rucha Pujari, Sakshi overpowered veteran Swati Ghate, Vrushali got the better of 11th seed Srija Seshadri and Bristy shocked seasoned campaigner, 14th seed Nisha Mohota.

Leading results (third round): B. Mounika Akshaya (2.5) drew with Vantika Agrawal (2.5); Divya Deshmukh (2.5) drew with Vishwa Shah (2.5); Mary Ann Gomes (2.5) drew with A.G. Nimmy (2.5); Rutuja Bakshi (2.5) drew with Bhakti Kulkarni (2.5); Aashna Makhija (3) bt Rucha Pujari (2); Sakshi Chitlange (3) bt Swati Ghate (2); Vrushali Deodhar (3) bt Srija Seshadri (2); Aakanksha Hagawane (2.5) drew with Tejaswini Sagar (2.5); Kiran Manisha Mohanty (2.5) drew with Srishti Pandey (2.5); Nisha Mohota (2) lost to Bristy Mukherjee (3); C. M.N. Sanyuktha (2.5) drew with V. Varshini (2.5).

ATP, WTA join forces for United Cup mixed teams tournament

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The ATP and WTA tours' new joint venture begins on Thursday in three Australian cities with plenty of prize money and ranking points at stake.

And the mixed teams United Cup could also help shake off some of the holiday season rust ahead of the Australian Open starting Jan. 16 in Melbourne.

The inaugural United Cup has teams from 18 countries competing in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney through to Jan. 4. Then the three city champions and the next-best performing country from the group stage will meet at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney from Jan. 6 to 8 to determine the overall winner.

The tournament offers $15 million in prize money and up to 500 ATP and 500 WTA rankings points. Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios will lead the host country.

Australia will begin group play against Britain in Sydney on Thursday, with Kyrgios taking on Cameron Norrie. He'll then face Rafael Nadal on Jan. 2 when Australia takes on Spain. Nadal will team with world No. 13 Paula Badosa for Spain, while Italy will have world No.16 Matteo Berrettini and Martina Trevisan.

MAKING THE CUT

Arshdeep shortlisted for Emerging Cricketer of the Year Award

India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was on Wednesday nominated for the ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year honour alongside Marco Jansen, Finn Allen and Ibrahim Zadran. Voting for the award will begin in January, said the ICC in a release. Arshdeep has made the shortlist less than six months after making his international debut.

TIME TO QUIT

Bangladesh coach Domingo resigns after series loss to India

Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo has quit just days after the side's disappointing Test series defeat at home to India with a year left on his contract, it was announced on Wednesday. Domingo, 48, had already been partially sidelined earlier this year when he was stripped of his role overseeing the T20 side before the Asia Cup.

MOVING UP

Ashwin, Shreyas make big gains in Test rankings

R. Ashwin and Shreyas Iyer made significant gains in the ICC rankings after helping India win the second Test against Bangladesh in Mirpur. Ashwin has moved up one slot and is joint-fourth among bowlers after bagging six wickets in the match. Shreyas' scores of 87 and 29 not out have helped him progress to a career-best 16th spot.

LET'S GO!

Sasikumar Mukund gets wildcard for the Tata Open main draw

India's highest-ranked singles tennis player Sasikumar Mukund was awarded a wildcard into the main draw of the Tata Open Maharashtra on Wednesday. The 25-year-old, ranked 340 in the world, was a wildcard entrant in the the 2020 edition but lost in the first round to Japan's Taro Daniel.

South Africa faces uphill task after Carey's maiden hundred

Australia scents an emphatic series win after the wicketkeeper-batter and Green stitch a century stand to leave the visitors battling to save the Test with two days remaining

SA IN AUSTRALIA

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Dean Elgar's weary South Africa side faces a difficult task to avoid a big defeat in the second Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with two days of play remaining.

South Africa reached 15 for one in its second innings at stumps on Wednesday, still requiring 371 more runs to make Australia bat again. Given that South Africa has failed to score 200 in its previous three innings in this series, and its leading batsman and captain Elgar is already back in the sheds, the odds are against the touring team.

Only seven overs were bowled in the evening session before rain interrupted play, sparing South Africa further misery on day three.

South Africa had lost Elgar for a duck in the second over as rival captain Pat Cummins struck a key blow, removing the left-hander caught behind off the glove.

Theunis de Bruyn, dropped at slip on three, is not out on six with Sarel Erwee on seven.

Resuming on Wednesday on 386 for three, Australia declared at tea on 575 for eight in reply to South Africa's first innings of 189.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey scored his maiden century for Australia, hitting 13 boundaries in his tally of 111. Carey and Cameron Green (51 not out), who showed admirable composure against the short ball despite nursing a broken finger, shared a century stand for the eighth wicket.

Earlier, South Africa started strongly as Nortje struck twice in the third over of the day, bowling Travis Head (51) and David Warner (200) in consecutive deliveries.

Warner, who had retired hurt with leg cramps on Tuesday, returned at the fall of the fourth wicket but lasted only one delivery, playing all around a full toss which crashed onto his stumps.

Rabada dismissed Cummins caught behind for four.

Nathan Lyon (25) was out hooking before Carey and Green piled it on.

Medium-pacer Green is unlikely to bowl again in the match because of a broken finger and pace spearhead Mitchell Starc is nursing a finger-tendon injury on his bowling hand which could result in him playing a limited role in South Africa's second innings.

The scores: South Africa 189 & 15/1 in 7 overs vs Australia 575/8 decl. in 145 overs (David Warner 200, Steve Smith 85, Travis Head 51; Cameron Green 51 n.o., Alex Carey 111, Nortje 3/92).

Cashing in: Carey's hundred ensured Australia kept South Africa under the pump. AP

Williamson and Latham's tons help NZ nudge ahead

NZ IN PAKISTAN

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Kane Williamson and Tom Latham hit contrasting hundreds on Wednesday to propel New Zealand to 440 for six at the close on the third day of the first Test against Pakistan here.

Williamson survived two stumpings and a leg-before decision before knocking an unbeaten 105, while Ish Sodhi was on one, with the tourists leading by two runs.

Williamson's 25th Test century is his first in international cricket since he racked up 238, also against Pakistan, in Christchurch in January last year.

He built on a solid foundation laid down by openers Latham, who cracked 113 en route to his 13th Test century, and Devon Conway, who fell for 92.

Williamson pushed fast bowler Mohammad Wasim for a sharp single to complete his hundred, a fifth against Pakistan.

Pakistan was left ruing missed chances as wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed fumbled two stumpings with Williamson on 15 and 21 – spinner Nauman Ali the unlucky bowler on both occasions.

Earlier, resuming on 165 without loss, New Zealand was lifted by Latham's 13th hundred –the most centuries by a New Zealand opener.

He was dismissed for 113 after miscuing a reverse sweep and being caught at slip. Conway was trapped leg-before by Nauman for 92.

The Pakistan camp has been hit by viral flu with skipper Babar Azam not taking the field in the first session and Agha Salman missing for the entire day.

The scores: Pakistan 438 in 130.5 overs vs New Zealand 440/6 in 136 overs (Tom Latham 113, Devon Conway 92, Kane Williamson 105 batting, Daryl Mitchell 42, Tom Blundell 47, Abrar 3/143).

Riding his luck: Williamson, who was let off twice, reached his 25th century making the hosts pay heavily for their lapses. AP

Shikha Pandey. FILE PHOTO

Shikha finds a place in T20 WC squad

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Veteran pacer Shikha Pandey on Wednesday made a surprise return to India's 15-member squad for the Women's 2023 T20 World Cup to be held in in South Africa from Feb. 10 to 26. Shikha last played for India in October 2021. Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the side with Smriti Mandhana being her deputy.

The BCCI also named the squad for the tri-series, involving South Africa and West Indies, to start Jan. 19.

The squads: World Cup: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk) Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Radha Yadav, Renuka Thakur, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Shikha Pandey.
Tri-series: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarvani, Shushma Verma (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Pooja Vastrakar, Sabbhineni Meghana, Sneh Rana, Shikha Pandey.

Ronaldo-less United restarts campaign with facile win

PREMIER LEAGUE

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

As Erik ten Hag confirmed Manchester United's ongoing search for a new striker, his existing ones made up for Cristiano Ronaldo's departure in a 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest.

Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial struck first-half goals in the game at Old Trafford as United moved to within a point of fourth-place Tottenham.

First strike: Rashford opened the scoring against Forest. REUTERS

However, if United's manager is to guide his team to a top-four finish in his first season at the club, he is likely to need more firepower to cover the exit of Ronaldo, who had his contract terminated last month.

Substitute Fred completed the scoring in the 87th minute – but Ten Hag was frustrated by a host of missed opportunities.

Chelsea, also hoping to break into the top four, ended a three-game losing streak by beating Bournemouth 2-0.

Kai Havertz and Mason Mount struck in the first half, but an injury to Reece James just after halftime marred the win.

The results:
Chelsea 2 (Havertz 16, Mount 24) bt Bournemouth 0; Manchester United 3 (Rashford 19, Martial 22, Fred 87) bt Nottingham Forest 0.

Venkatesh joins overnight leaders

NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

With a fourth straight victory, M.R. Venkatesh left erstwhile front-runner Abhijeet Gupta to rue a second successive defeat and joined overnight leaders S.P. Sethuraman and Mitrabha Guha at six points after seven rounds of the MPL National chess championship here on Tuesday.

Earlier, Sethuraman and Mitrabha drew in just 13 turns after a three-fold repetition of moves.

Fourth seeded youngster Leon Mendonca returned to winning ways by stopping Kushagra Mohan and became part of the eight-player pack at 5.5 points.

Leading results (seventh round): Mitrabha Guha (6) drew with S.P. Sethuraman (6); Abhijeet Gupta (5) lost to M.R. Venkatesh (6); Aronyak Ghosh (5.5) drew with Mehar Chinna Reddy (5.5); Kushagra Mohan (4.5) lost to Leon Mendonca (5.5); N. R. Visakh (5) drew with N. B. Hari Madhavan (5); Aaryan Varshney (4.5) lost to Koustav Chatterjee (5.5); P. Iniyan (5.5) bt Ayush Sharma (4.5); Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (4.5) lost to Karthik Venkataraman (5.5); V.S. Raahul (4.5) lost to N.R. Vignesh (5.5); Subhayan Kundu (5) drew with Deep Sengupta (5); L.R. Srihari (5) drew with Yash Bharadia (5); Arjun Adireddy (4.5) lost to Audi Ameya (5.5); Shyam Sundar (4.5) drew with Sai Vishwesh (5).

Savitha Shri, 15, wins World rapid bronze on debut

Rakesh Rao

Less than a month away from turning 16, B. Savitha Shri turned her sensational debut in the women's World rapid chess championship into a medal-winning one by grabbing the bronze at Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday.

The Chennai-teenager topped a four-way tie, involving a sixth-placed K. Humpy, to take the third spot with eight points.

China's Tan Zhongyi took the gold by beating local favourite Dinara Saduakassova 1.5-0.5 in the blitz tie-breaker to decide the title after the duo tied at 8.5 points from 11 rounds.

Five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand tweeted, "What an amazing debut! She has a lot of ambition and courage! Really proud of this achievement! Really happy to share this moment. Congratulations to (coach) R.B. Ramesh for helping mould Savitha Shri! We hope that this is the beginning of a great career!"

Ramesh's trainee

Savitha is a trainee of Ramesh for over five years and also part of the elite group of Westbridge Anand Chess Academy, under Anand and a few handpicked coaches.

A delighted Ramesh told *The Hindu*, "I'm really happy for her and acknowledge the part played by WACA in supporting her. Hope she evolves into a very strong asset for India. She is very determined and a practical player. With better and focused preparation, she can become much stronger."

Ramesh said, "Before Savitha left for Almaty, we (Ramesh, Savitha, R. Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali and M. Pranesh and a few others) went to Isha Yoga Center at Coimbatore to learn meditation/yoga to calm the nerves. I guess that has paid off!"

With a starting rank of 36 in a field of 98, Savitha made the chess world sit up and take notice as she made light of her rapid ranking of 2311 to perform at 2478-level against some of the best in women's chess.

The action now moves to the blitz format that begins on Thursday.

B. Savitha Shri. FILE PHOTO

ATK MB gets the better of FC Goa to regain winning form

ISL-9

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

ATK Mohun Bagan (ATK MB) returned to winning ways by prevailing over FC Goa by the odd goal in three in a matchweek-13 fixture of the ISL-9 here on Wednesday.

Dimitri Petratos and Hugo Boumous found the target for the host while Anwar Ali produced the lone goal for FC Goa.

The win helped ATK MB climb to the third spot in the standing with 23 points from 12 matches, while FC Goa remains in the fifth spot with 19 from 12.

The host controlled the initial exchanges and converted the early dominance into a goal in the ninth minute.

Petratos produced a brilliant finish as he turned an innocuous-looking situation into his own advantage. The Australian striker collected a throw-in after emerging from behind the Goa defence line and seeing the Goa goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh out of position fired in a rasping grounder.

Goa's Anwar tapped in a Edu Bedia free-kick in the 25th minute for his first ISL goal and the equaliser. But ATK MB restored the lead in the 53rd minute when Hugo Boumous made the most of a Petratos assist.

The result: ATK Mohun Bagan 2 (Petratos 9, Boumous 53) bt FC Goa 1 (Anwar 25).

On target: Boumous nets ATK MB's second goal. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

INBRIEF

Jamaican sprinter Blake to promote Mumbai Marathon

Celebrated Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake was on Wednesday named as the international event ambassador for the 18th Tata Mumbai Marathon, to be held on January 15. Blake, the youngest 100m World champion ever, is the second fastest man of all time. Ranked among the top 10 marathons in the world, the Tata Mumbai Marathon is a $405,000 prize fund World Athletics Gold Label Road Race. He had teamed up with Bolt for the 4x100m relay gold in a world record at the London Games.

Srihari and Sadhvi emerge victorious

Srihari Nataraj and Sadhvi Gopal Dhrui won the 100-metre freestyle event for men and women respectively in the All India inter-University swimming championship n Bhubaneswar.

Select results: **Men**: **100m freestyle**: 1. Srihari Nataraj 51.56; 2. Aneesh Gowda 52.36; 3. Sathya Sai Krishnan 53.08. **1500m freestyle**: 1. Aneesh Gowda 16:16.81; 2. Anurag Singh 16:29.44; 3. Dhyan Balakrishna 16:57.20.

Women: **100m freestyle**: Sadhvi Gopal Dhuri 1:03.16; 2. Aarti Patil 1:03.43; 3. Maanya Manesh 1:03.79.

Arunkumar is MI's assistant batting coach

J. Arunkumar, a heavyweight in the domestic circuit in the 1990s and 2000s, has been appointed as the assistant batting coach of five-time IPL champion Mumbai Indians. A right-handed opening batter, Arunkumar represented Karnataka in the Indian domestic circuit for 16 years from 1993 to 2008. After retirement, he turned to coaching, and was the batting coach of the Karnataka side

Pandey marks his 100th FC game with unbeaten double ton

Karnataka batters take the Goan attack to the cleaners to run up a huge total of 603 for seven decl.; Onat chips in with a 91

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
PANAJI

Manish Pandey made his 100th First Class appearance memorable with a blistering unbeaten double century against Goa here on Wednesday.

Pandey's 186-ball 208 put Karnataka in a commanding position on the second day of the Ranji Trophy outing. Karnataka's marathon batting effort ended on 603/7 declared, giving the bowlers nearly a full session to have a go at the Goa batters. The home side lost the wicket of Amogh Desai to finish the day on 45 for one.

Pandey, resuming on his overnight score of eight, was in full flow. He hammered the bowlers to all parts of the ground, in an entertaining innings studded with 14 fours and 11 sixes.

Flying high: Pandey took heavy toll of the bowlers with an entertaining innings studded with 14 fours and 11 sixes. ASHWIN ACHAL

Hitting out

Pandey was unstoppable after he reached his century. Even with the field well spread, the experienced cricketer had little hesitation playing the big, lofted shots. The 33-year-old audaciously walked down the track to fast bowlers and smacked them through mid-wicket.

Many of his hits sailed out of the Goa Cricket Association Academy. His fitness shone through as well, as he ran hard between the wickets deep into the long knock.

Pandey was offered a life when he was dropped by substitute fielder Deepraj Gaonkar on 100.

Earlier, one-drop Vishal Onat missed his chance to record his maiden century. He fell on 91, taken at slip off left-arm spinner Darshan Misal.

Steady knock

All-rounder Shubhang Hegde, playing his second First Class game, made a steady 67-ball 39. He took a cautious approach, focussing on giving senior partner Pandey company.

Karnataka's sole success with the ball came when Desai left a gap between bat and pad to lose his stumps to pacer Ronit More. Sumiran Amonkar (30 n.o., 77b, 6x4) and Suyash Prabhudessai (6 n.o., 38b) showed stomach for a fight.

The Karnataka side was typically aggressive with their appeals, but umpires Sadashiv Iyer and Arun Kumar held firm and did not crack under pressure.

The scores:

Karnataka - 1st innings: R. Samarth c Eknath b Arjun 140, Mayank Agarwal lbw b Lakshay 50, Vishal Onat c Desai b Misal 91, Nikin Jose lbw b Misal 9, Manish Pandey (not out) 208, B.R. Sharath lbw b Lad 29, K. Gowtham c & b Misal 16, Shubhang Hegde c Eknath b Arjun 39; Extras (b-8, lb-7, w-3, nb-3): 21; Total (for seven wkts. decl. in 148.2 overs): 603.

Fall of wickets: 1-116, 2-259, 3-284, 4-351, 5-408, 6-480, 7-603.

Goa bowling: Lakshay 27-3-98-1, Arjun 26.2-4-79-2, Alemao 24-0-157-0, Misal 47-5-145-3, Redkar 14-0-55-0, Lad 7-0-38-1, Prabhudessai 3-0-16-0.

Goa — 1st innings: Sumiran Amonkar (batting) 30, Amogh Desai b More 5, Suyash Prabhudessai (batting) 6; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for one wkt. in 23 overs): 45.

Fall of wickets: 1-22.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 4-2-16-0, More 7-3-10-1, Gowtham 8-6-8-0, Vyshak 3-0-6-0, Shubhang 1-0-1-0.

RANJI SCORES (ROUND THREE, DAY TWO)

Elite: Group A: At Vadodara: Uttar Pradesh 258 in 100.5 overs (Akshdeep Nath 71) vs. Baroda 221/6 in 78 overs (Ninad Rathva 93 batting).

At Cuttack: Haryana 338 in 100 overs (Nishant Sindhu 142, Jayant Yadav 41, Suryakant Pradhan 6/93) vs. Odisha 204/3 in 78 overs (Anurag Sarangi 63, Shantanu Mishra 60, Subhranshu Senapati 42 batting).

At Sovima: Nagaland 166 in 62.4 overs (Pradipta Pramanik 6/43) vs. Bengal 336/4 in 82 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 170, Sudip Kumar Gharami 104).

At Dehradun: Himachal Pradesh 49 & 277/4 in 76 overs (Prashant Chopra 43, Ankit Kalsi 44, Akash Vasisht 73 batting) vs. Uttarakhand 336 in 75.4 overs (Aditya Tare 92, Abhay Negi 70, Vaibhav Arora 4/80).

Group B: At Delhi: Delhi 303 in 97.1 overs (Lalit Yadav 40, Pranshu Vijayran 58, Lakshminarayanan Vignesh 4/50, Sandeep Warrier 4/106) vs. Tamil Nadu 214/5 in 54 overs (B. Aparajith 57, B. Indrajith 71).

At Hyderabad: Assam 205 & 182/6 in 39 overs (Riyan Parag 78) vs. Hyderabad 208 in 66.5 overs (Rohit Rayudu 60, Bhagath Varma 46, Riyan Parag 4/48).

At Vizianagaram: Maharashtra 200 & 89/1 in 27 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 51 batting) vs. Andhra 211 in 79 overs (Hanuma Vihari 49, Karan Shinde 52, K.V. Sasikanth 48 n.o.).

At Mumbai: Saurashtra 289 & 120/6 in 32 overs (Shams Mulani 4/50) vs. Mumbai 230 in 63.3 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 95, Sarfaraz Khan 75, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/70).

Group C: At Porvorim: Karnataka 603/7 decl. in 148.2 overs (Vishal Onat 91, Manish Pandey 208 n.o.) vs. Goa 45/1 in 23 overs.

At Jamshedpur: Services 367 in 108.1 overs (Mohit Rathee 69, Anukul Roy 6/67) vs. Jharkhand 228/4 in 63 overs (Kumar Deobrat 62, Kumar Suraj 75 batting, Virat Singh 56).

At Puducherry: Rajasthan 335 in 82.2 overs (Manav Suthar 96 n.o., Sagar Udeshi 4/79) bt Pondicherry 104 in 38 overs (Manav Suthar 8/33) & 130 in 40.1 overs (Mahipal Lomror 4/38); **Points:** Rajasthan 7 (11), Pondicherry 0 (0).

At Thumba: Chhattisgarh 149 & 10/2 in 6 overs vs. Kerala 311 in 107.1 overs (Rohan Prem 77, Sachin Baby 77, Sanju Samson 46).

Group D: At Agartala: Punjab 203 in 64.2 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 55, Mandeep Singh 41, Manisankar Murasingh 5/48) vs. Tripura 17/0 in 7 overs.

At Ahmedabad: Chandigarh 304 in 116 overs (Bhagmender Lather 87, Shen Patel 4/85) vs. Gujarat 249/3 in 61 overs (Kathan Patel 47, Priyank Panchal 87 batting, Priyesh Patel 62).

At Nagpur: Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) 191 & 75/3 in 28 overs vs. Vidarbha 272 in 83.5 overs (Atharva Taide 74, Aditya Sarwate 75, Harsh Dubey 55, Umar Nazir Mir 5/39).

At Indore: Railways 274 vs. Madhya Pradesh (MP) 243/8 in 83.3 overs (Himanshu Mantri 48, Shubham Sharma 40, Rajat Patidar 54, Sagar Jadhav 4/28).

Plate: At Rangpo: Mizoram 263 in 101.4 overs (Palzor Tamang 4/45) vs. Sikkim 176 in 61 overs (Sumit Singh 99, Avinash Yadav 5/71).

At Shillong: Bihar 264 in 72 overs (Sakibul Gani 56, Rajesh Bishnoi 6/60) & 73/3 in 24 overs vs. Meghalaya 167 in 38.5 overs (Raj Biswa 56, Dippu Sangma 57).

At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 233 & 20/0 in 9 overs vs. Manipur 287 in 78.1 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 91, L. Kishan Singha 58).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 9.30, 11.45 p.m. & 2 a.m. (Friday)

I want to do good things and help my teammates, says Manish Pandey

Sports Bureau
PANAJI

After reaching his double century, Manish Pandey walked towards square-leg, looked skywards and spent a few moments in quiet reflection.

It was an emotional occasion for the Karnataka batter, who was making his 100th First Class appearance.

"To play hundred games is not a joke. It takes a lot of effort, and it has come over a period of 14-15 years. It was quite emotional.

An opportunity to give back

"I wanted to give back to the team that has given me so much," Pandey, who made an unbeaten 208, said.

"I just want to stay humble, do good things and help my teammates," Pandey added.

Inspired by Warner

Pandey stated that he was inspired by Australian David Warner, who celebrated his 100th Test with a double hundred against South Africa on Tuesday.

Pandey's big knock comes as the antidote to Karnataka's recent middle-order failings. In the previous two outings, he made scores of 10, 23 and 45.

"In the first two games, I was not able to convert. I had the opportunity to do that in this game.

"My teammates and coaches backed me. They asked me to play my natural game and I did that," Pandey said.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Krushik and Patela excel in Mysore's thumping win

Krushik Krishna's match-haul of six wickets (2/30 & 4/25) and Patela's century (100) helped Mysore beat Bangalore by an innings and 24 runs in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament.

The scores: Bangalore City XI 200/9 in 90 overs (G. Aravind 64, Rajarshi Mitra 34 n.o., Khush Kothari 3/29, Milan Dhami 3/30) & 94/1 in 30 overs (Karan Raghavendra 28 n.o., N.P. Vivek 57) drew with Presidents XI 250 in 82.2 overs (R. Parth 26, M. Assad 59, R. Rathin Sanjay 29, Krushna V. Rao 62, Milan Dhami 32, J. Sukruth 3/59, S.P. Banesh 3/38).

Dharwad 197 in 69.3 overs (Shubam R. Khot 83, Ayush M. Patil 27, Shubh C. Mungurwadi 25, K. Preetham Raj 3/30, T.G. Guruprasad 3/25) & 176/5 decl. in 63 overs (Joy James Sullad 41, Sairaj Salunke 75) drew with Shimoga 79 in 54 overs (Vishwesh S. Alagundagi 3/16).

Tumkur 248 in 75.1 overs (A.A. Rohith 38, Shreyash S. Depavat 60 n.o., M.G. Kishor 26, Gaurav Venkatesh 3/37, Mohammad Rayan 4/41) & 124/3 in 30 overs (R. Shivaraj 50 n.o.) drew with Vice President's XI 230 in 78.3 overs (Bilal Muhammad Basheer 104, Yogesh S. Chavan 52, M. Amith Vishalvath 3/61).

Raichur 95 in 54.4 overs (D. Sanju Reddy 27, Kshitij Shetty 3/24) & 179/6 decl. in 64.1 overs (Kashif Ahmed Ali 36, Vishnuvardhan Pukale 25, Siddanth Patil 37, Adarsh Rathod 34) drew with Mangalore 84 in 33.3 overs (H.S. Surya Thribhuvan 25, Syed Jawadd Ali 3/32, Mohammed Shamsheer 3/22, Shreyas Indian 3/9) & 67/8 in 28 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 26, Shreyas Indian 3/2).

Bangalore 89 in 43.5 overs (Krushik Krishna 2/30) & 140 in 58.4 overs (M. Shivu 31, S. Leshan 26, Krushik Krishna 4/25) lost to Mysore 253 in 73 overs (Patela 100, Krushik Krishna 36, M.H. Dhyaan 28, Aashrit Ram Inapakuthika 3/56, Shamanth 3/29, S. Leshan 4/59).

Secretary's XI 79 in 34.2 overs (K. Gagan Sai 4/10, Dheeganth S. Mavinkere 3/17) & 150 in 64 overs (Anvay Dravid 36, Arya J. Gowda 30, H.N. Karthik 31, K. Gagan Sai 5/37, Sreearjun Balusu 3/42) lost to Combined City XI 179 in 65.1 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 76, Dhruv Modhe 28, C. Barath 26, H.N. Karthik 5/29, Arya J.Gowda 3/27) & 53/2 in 21.1 overs (C. Barath 30 n.o.).

Karnataka girls claim bronze

Karnataka girls pipped Rajasthan 73-72 to secure the bronze medal in the 37th Youth National Basketball Championship for boys and girls held in Indore, on Wednesday.

The result: Karnataka 73 (Aadhya Nagalinga 20, Yashaswini 16, Nidhi Umesh 16) bt Rajasthan 72 (Priyanka 26, Bhumika 22).

Thofique's unbeaten ton highlights Young Pioneer's facile win

R. Thofique top-scored with an unbeaten 127 as Young Pioneer CC defeated South End SC by seven wickets in the KSCA (Group I) fourth division league.

The scores: Friends Cricket Team 132 in 36.4 overs (Yash Kothari 31, B. Yogesh Kumar 4/28, N. Gopinath Saandra 3/29) lost to Young Lions Club 136/3 in 19.2 overs (N. Gopinath Saandra 46, Mohd. Nauman 60 n.o.).

Freelancers CC 98 in 35 overs (Omprakash Aglecha 33, K.B. Thimmaiah 3/7) lost to BEL Colony RC 99/3 in 23.3 overs (Ayush Ponna 53 n.o., T. Chiranjeevi 27).

South End SC 199 in 49 overs (K. Mahesh 33, Nirmith 68, J.A. Pranav Preetham 34, N.J. Deepak 4/46) lost to Young Pioneer CC 203/3 in 31.3 overs (R. Thofique 127 n.o., K. Purna Chandra 35 n.o., Sunil Singh 3/60).

Select Cricketers 130 in 30.2 overs (Kiran Uppoor 34, S. Abhijit 27, N. Raghavendra 31, Debarshi Ghosh 6/34) bt IISC Gymkhana 74 in 25.4 overs (C.V. Praneeth 34, Sunil Kumar 6/28, Ramling Patil 3/4).

Whirlwind Cricketers 338/9 in 50 overs (C. Himanshoo Reddy 47, C.R. Kumarswamy 108, Shreyank Sagar 124, B.S. Suhas 3/46) bt Friends XI CC, Doddaballapura 261 in 38.5 overs (Abid Ali 30, Karthik Ramanna 53, B.S. Suhas 58, Sayan Arjun 3/61, S. Arvind 3/50).

Bharath CC 285/9 in 50 overs (Ashwin Kumar 69, Gaurov Shanbhag 79, S. Monish 54, K.N. Devaraj 4/60) bt Magadi CC 137 in 35.4 overs (R. Keshvaraj 25, Charan Raju 29, Gaurov Shanbhag 3/42).

Mithun on target for Blitz FC

M.P. Mithun accounted for a brace as Blitz FC beat Income Tax FC 2-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship here on Wednesday.

The results: Blitz FC 2 (M.P. Mithun 26, 46) bt Income Tax FC 1 (Apeto Sema 28); HAL FC 1 (Devadath 75) bt BTM FC 0.

Pratik nets two in Sandeep's easy win

T.V. Pratik scored twice as Sandeep HC blanked Adhiyamaan College 3-0 in the KSHA B-Division Hockey Championship here on Wednesday.

The result: Sandeep HC 3 (Abhishek 10, T.V. Pratik 16, 17) bt Adhiyamaan College 0.